



# DARK NIGHTS

3

# DEATH



**Scott  
Snyder**  
**Greg  
Capullo**  
Jonathan  
Glapion  
fco  
**Plascencia**





# DARK NIGHTS

3

# DEFEND

ANDY  
FIBERY  
BA

**Scott  
Snyder**  
**Greg  
Capullo**  
**Jonathan  
Glapion**  
**FCO  
Plascencia**

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM DEC 2017





# DEFALL



**Scott Snyder** **Greg Capullo** **Jonathan Glapion** **eco Plascencia**

JIM LEE  
COLLIER  
SIMP





# METAL

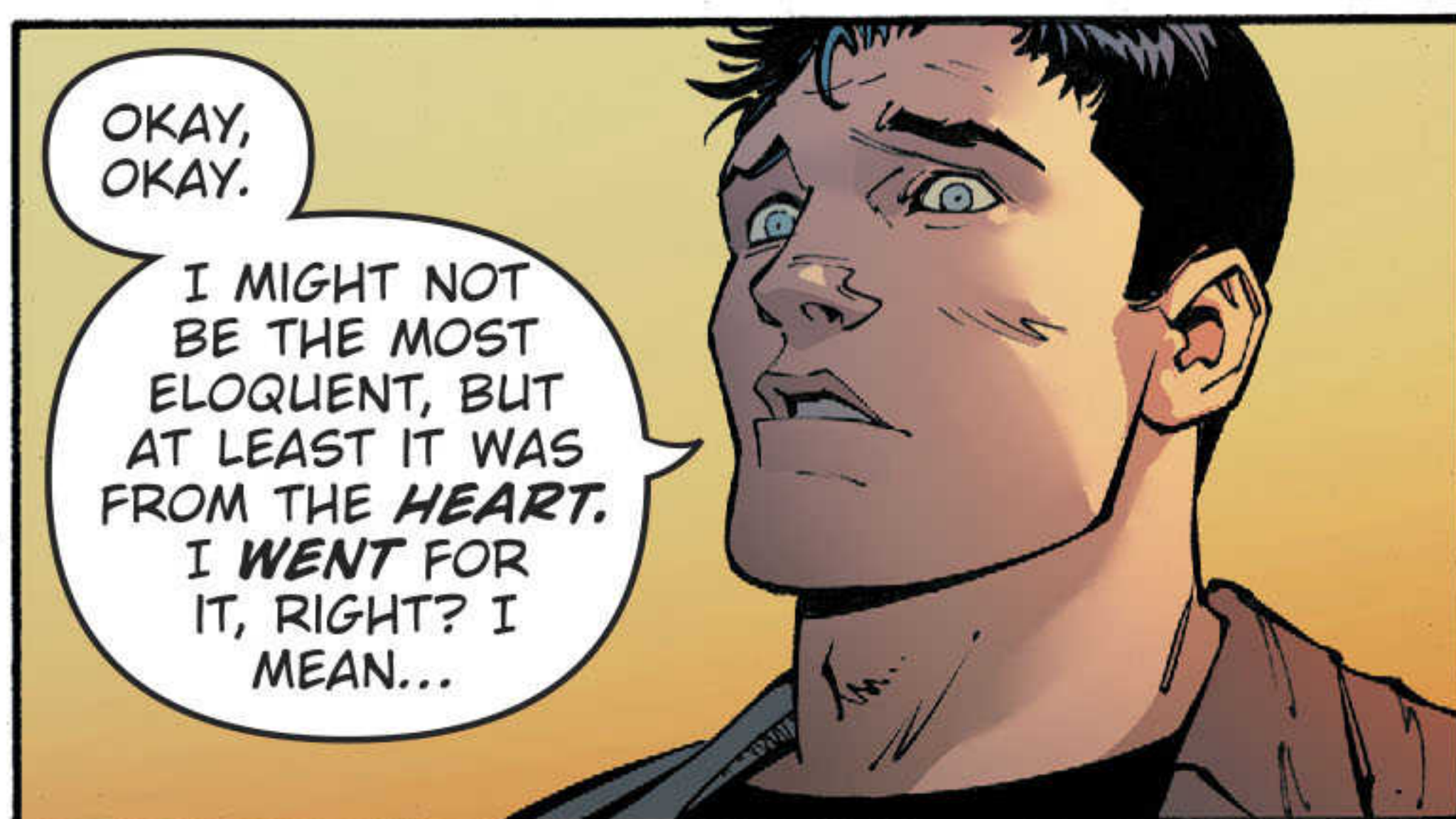
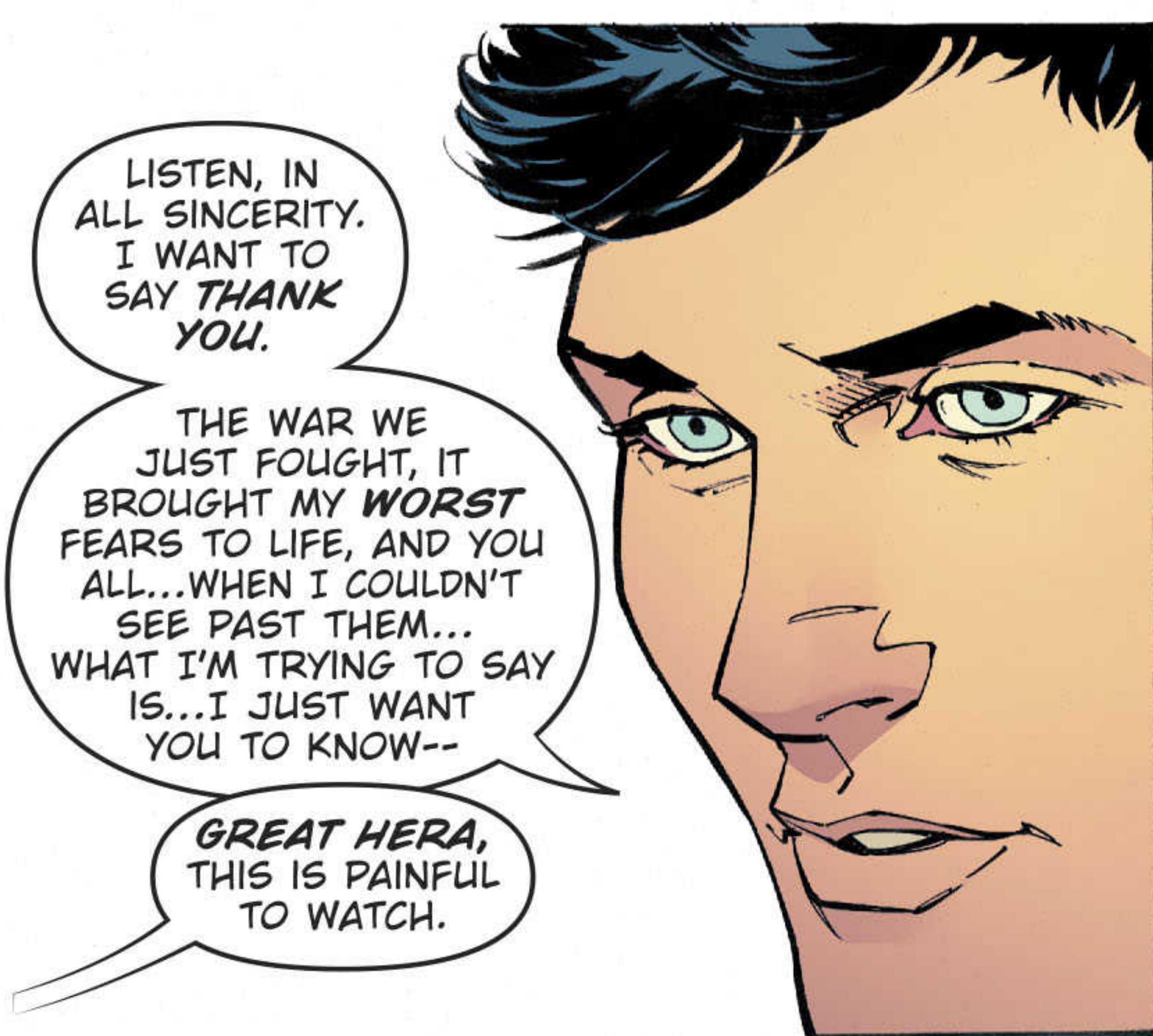
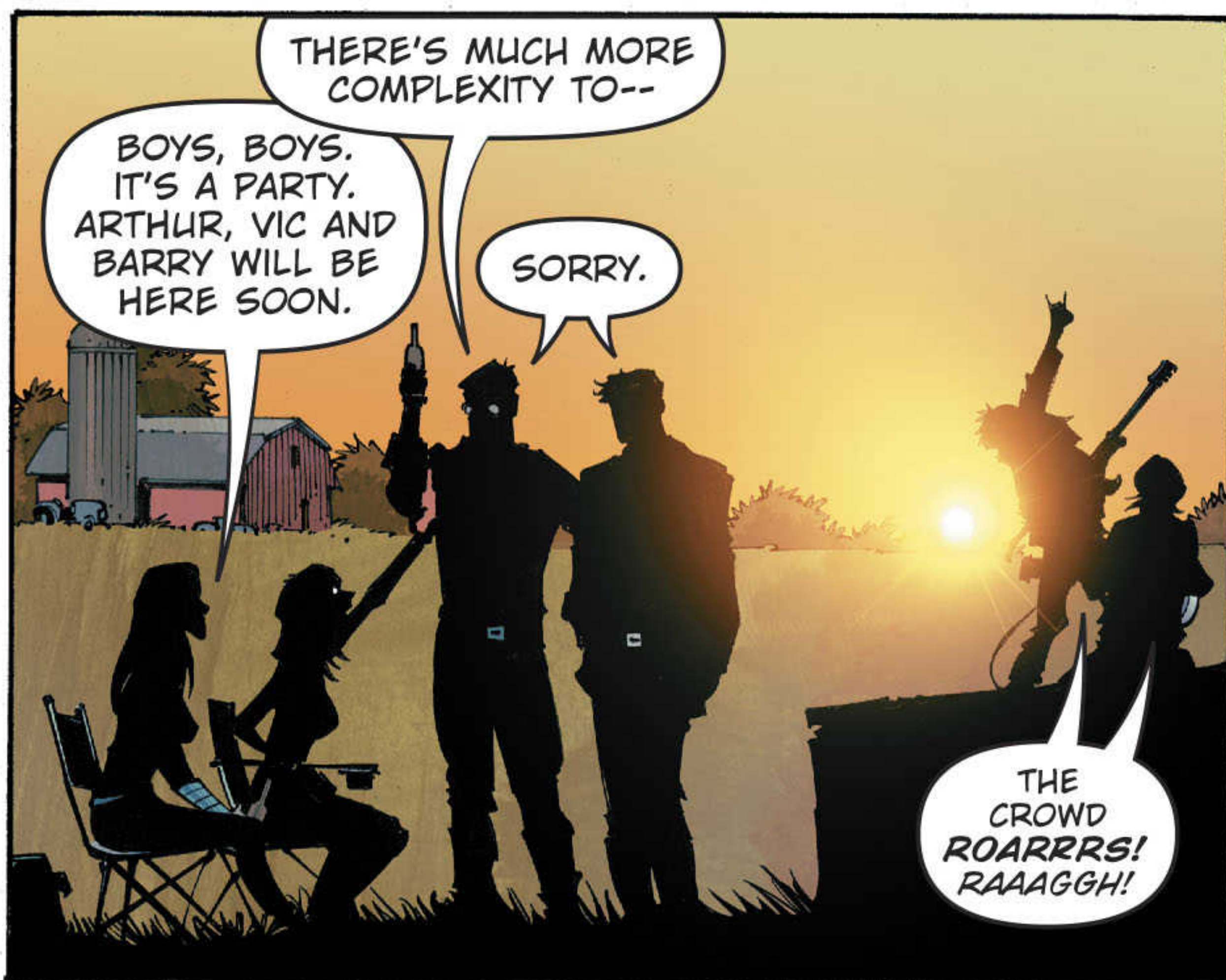
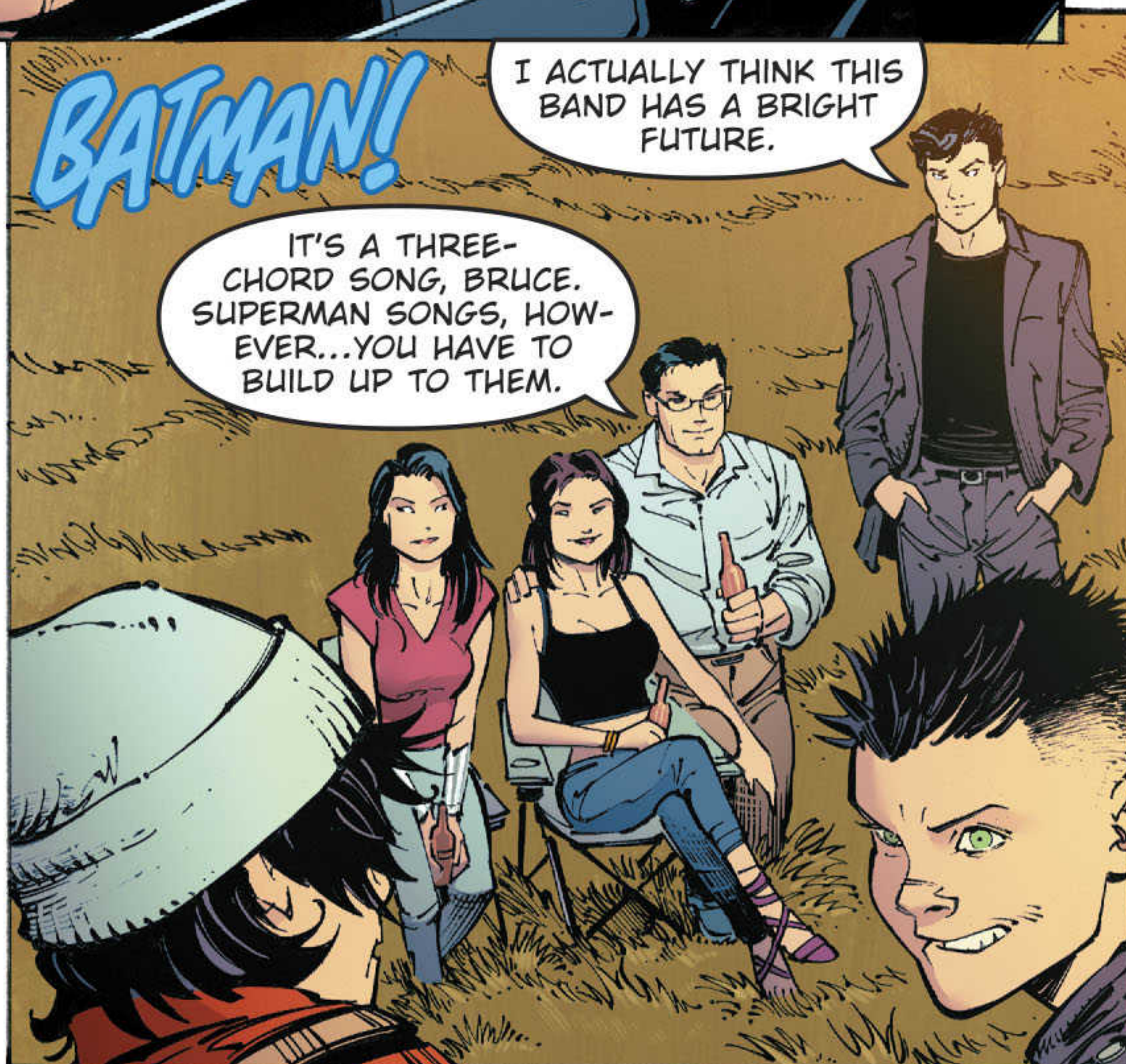


**Scott  
Snyder**  
**Greg  
Capullo**  
Jonathan  
Glapon  
fco  
**Plascencia**

JR  
JR '17  
WHITE



**SMALLVILLE, KANSAS.**  
CHILDHOOD HOME OF...







BRUCE!

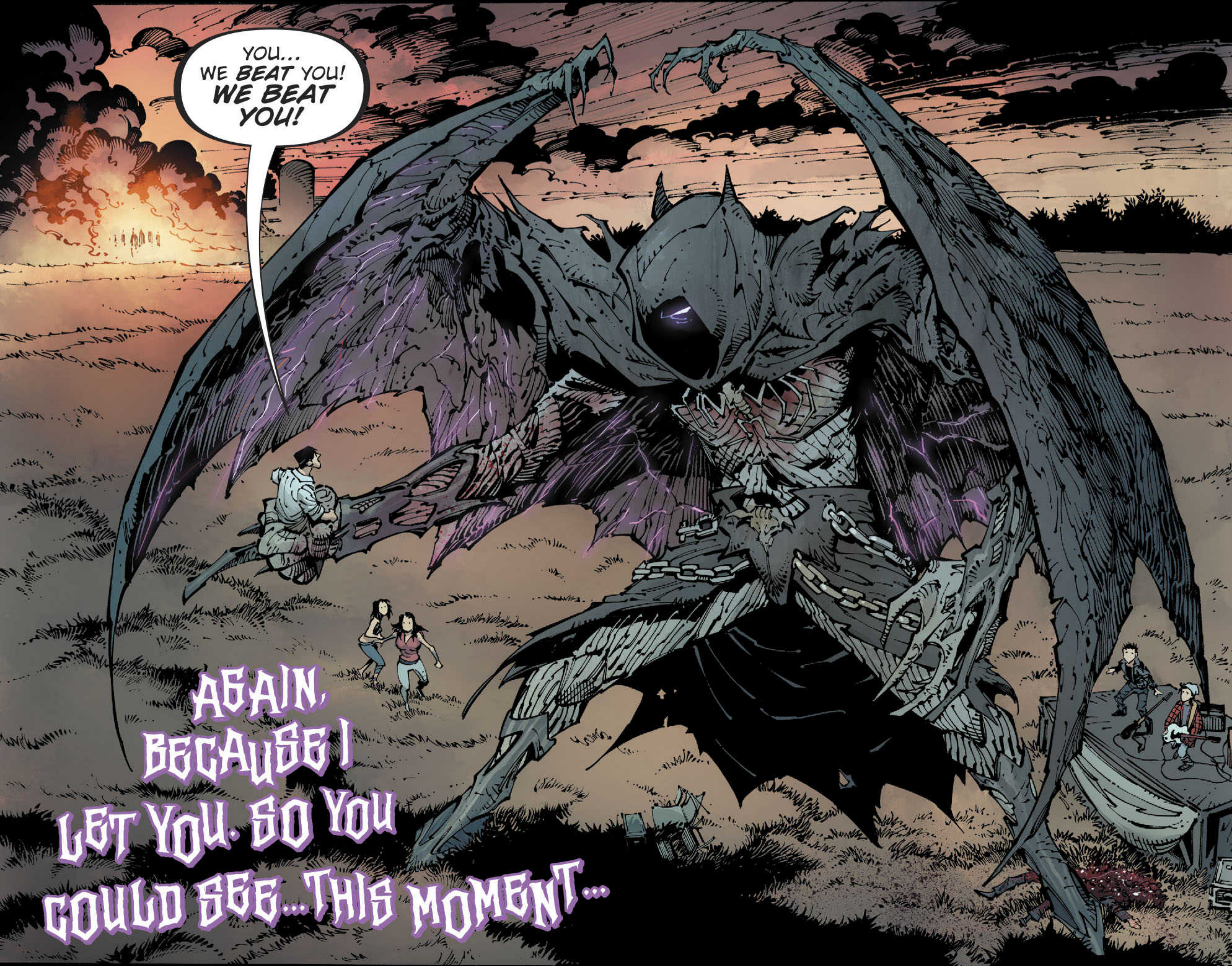
AAAAGH!



NO!  
NO, NOT  
AGAIN!

GET  
DOWN!

FATHER!



YOU...  
WE BEAT YOU!  
WE BEAT  
YOU!

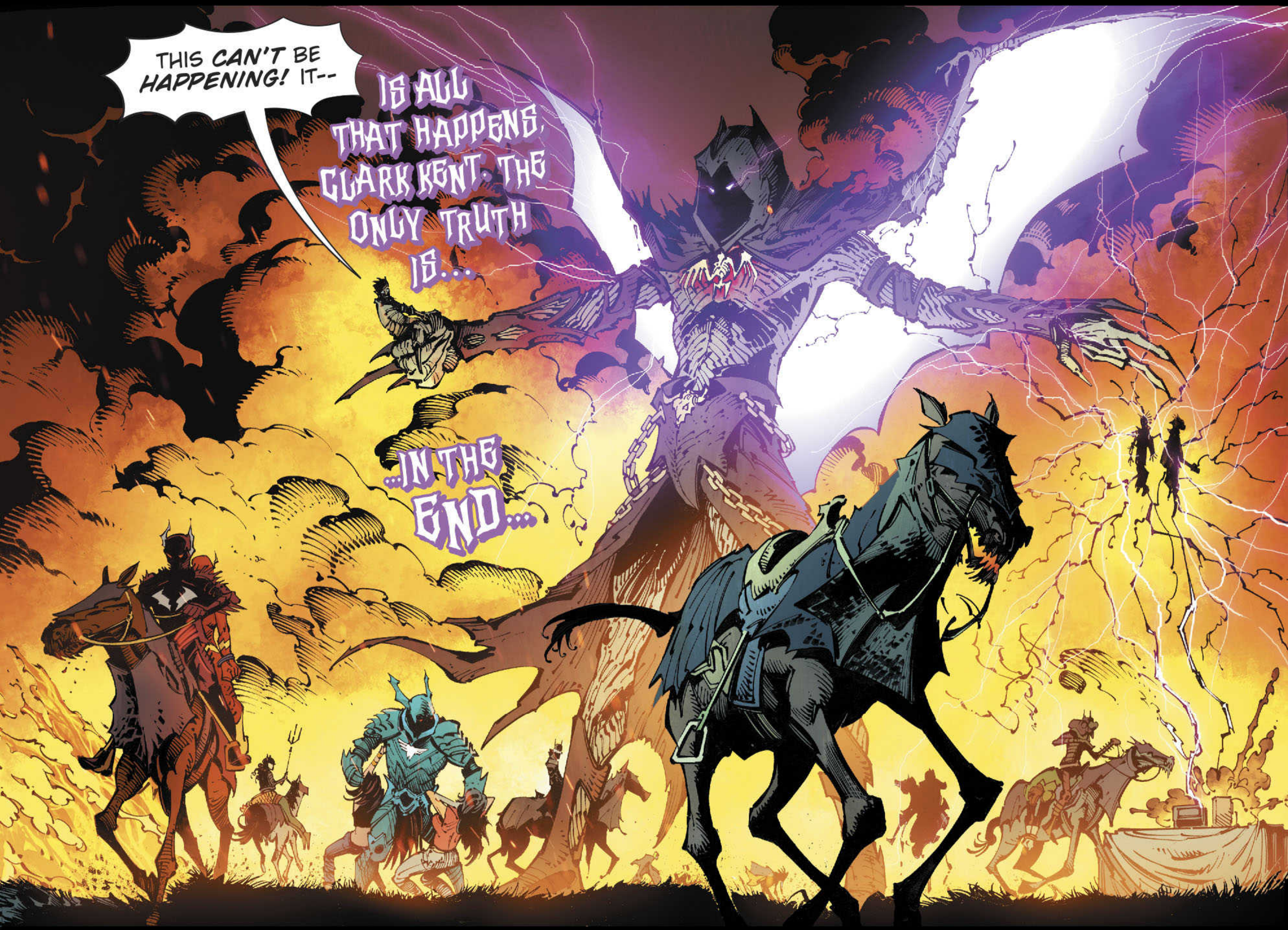
AGAIN,  
BECAUSE I  
LET YOU. SO YOU  
COULD SEE... THIS MOMENT...





WE'RE  
HERE FOR THE  
PARTY.

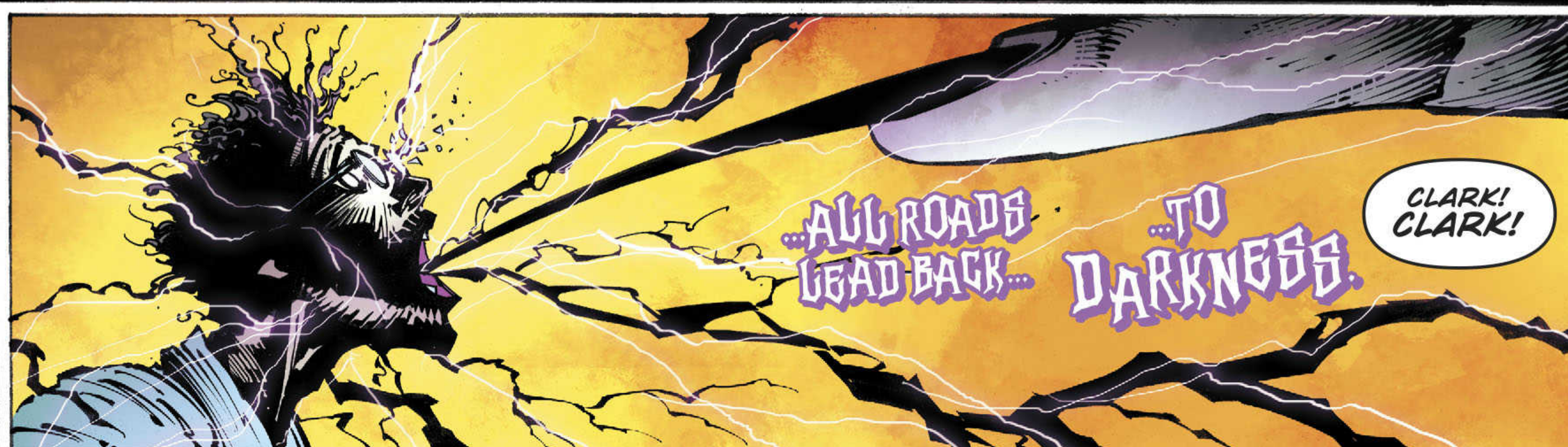
WE HEARD  
THERE'D BE  
CAKE.



THIS CAN'T BE  
HAPPENING! IT--

IS ALL  
THAT HAPPENS,  
CLARK KENT. THE  
ONLY TRUTH  
IS...

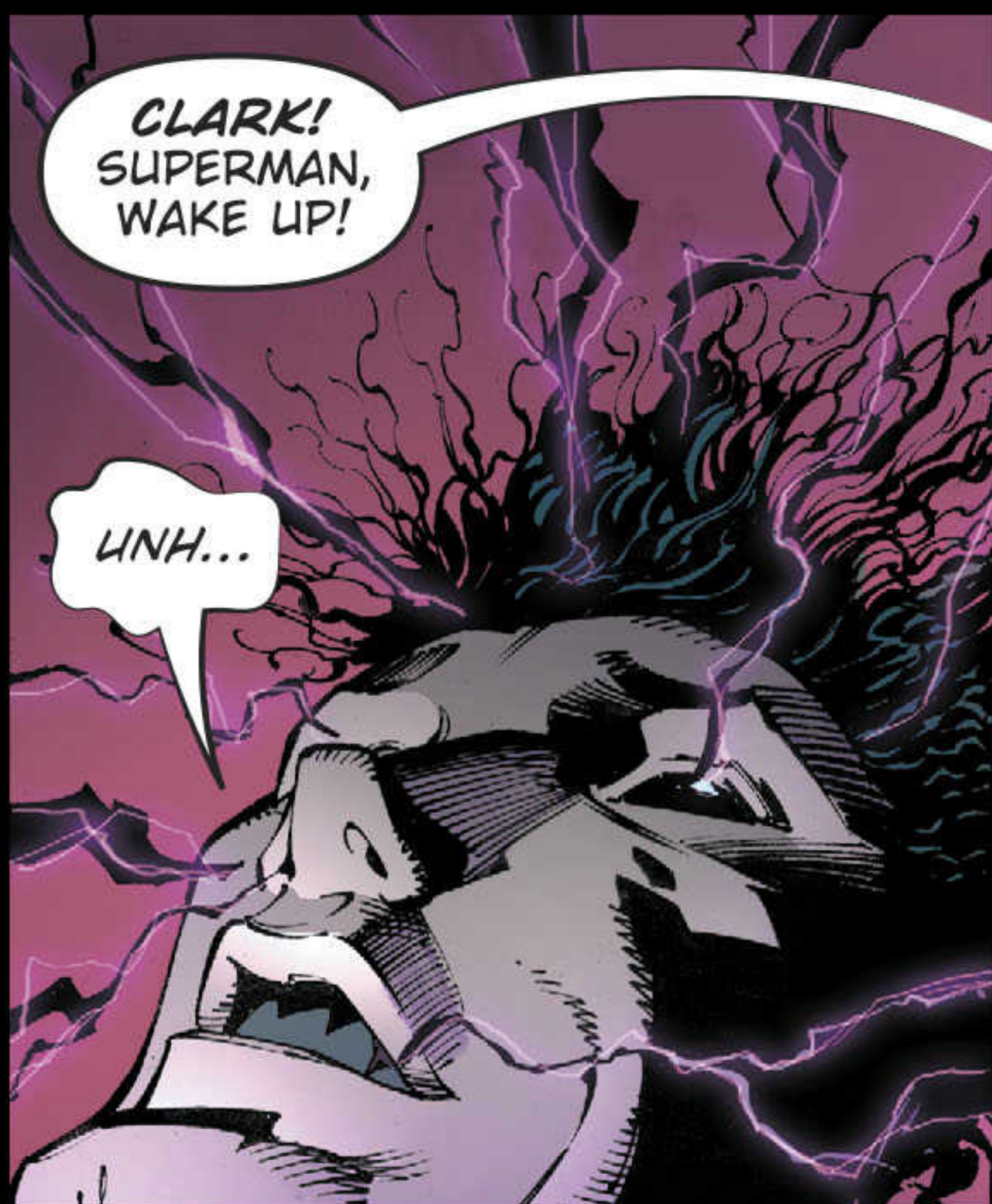
...IN THE  
END...



...ALL ROADS  
LEAD BACK...  
TO  
DARKNESS.

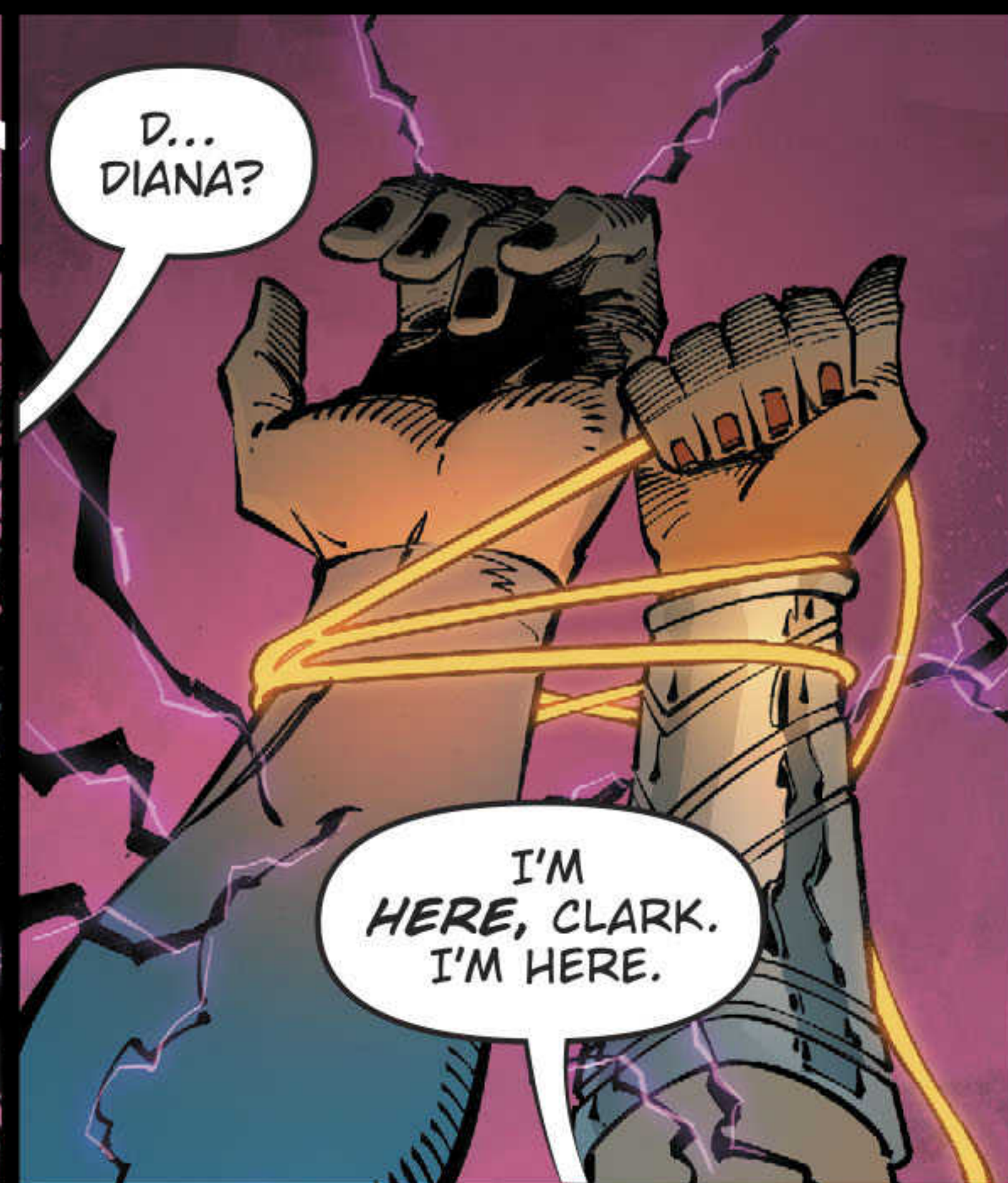
CLARK!  
CLARK!





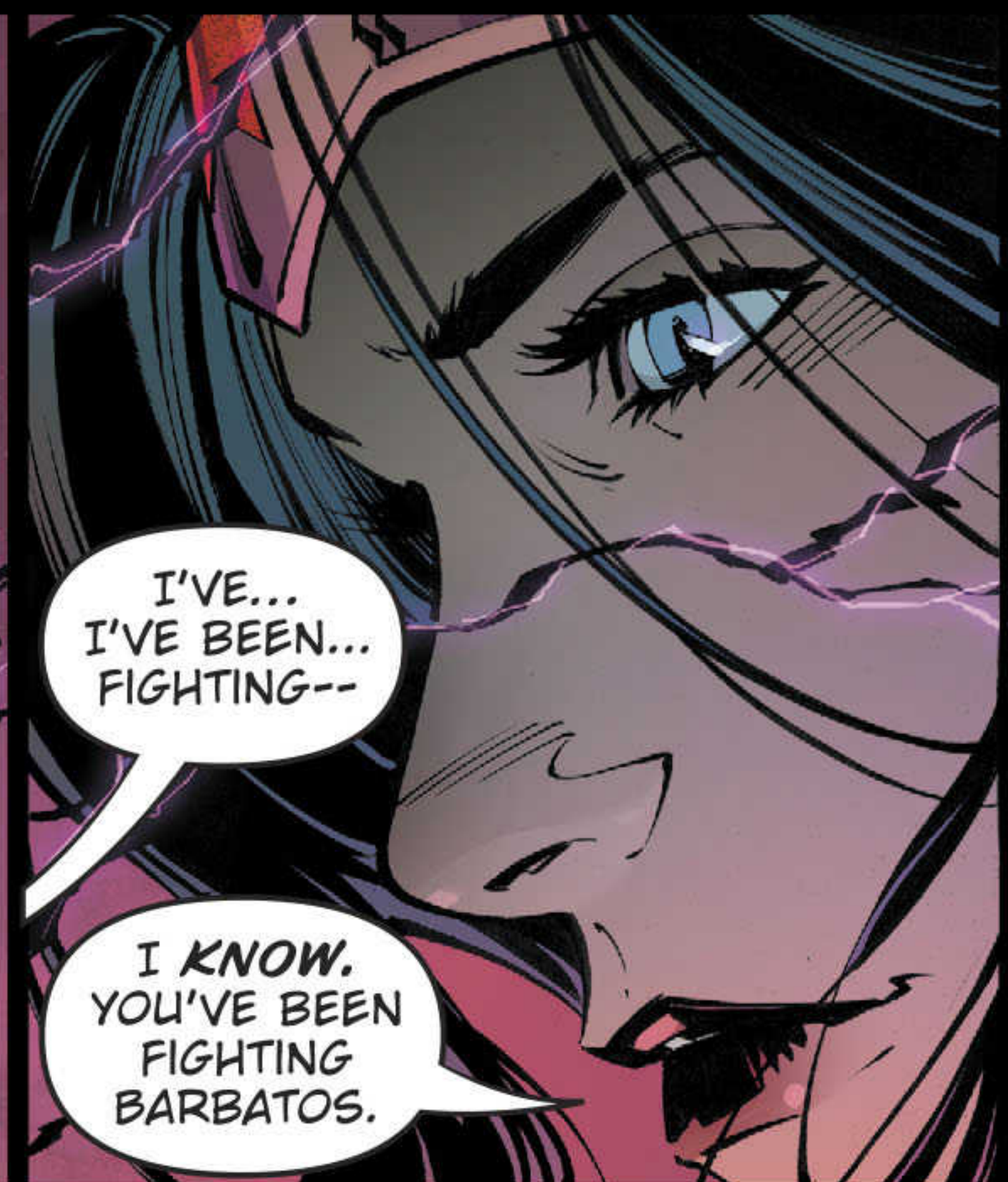
CLARK!  
SUPERMAN,  
WAKE UP!

UHH...



D...  
DIANA?

I'M  
HERE, CLARK.  
I'M HERE.



I'VE...  
I'VE BEEN...  
FIGHTING--

I KNOW.  
YOU'VE BEEN  
FIGHTING  
BARBATOS.



"BUT...OVER AND OVER, DIANA.  
FOR MONTHS. YEARS. I'VE  
LIVED *WHOLE LIVES* BATTLING  
IT. LIKE BEING CAUGHT IN A  
RECURRING DREAM, BUT *REAL*.



"I...I TRIED EVERYTHING.  
I FOUGHT WITH VILLAINS...

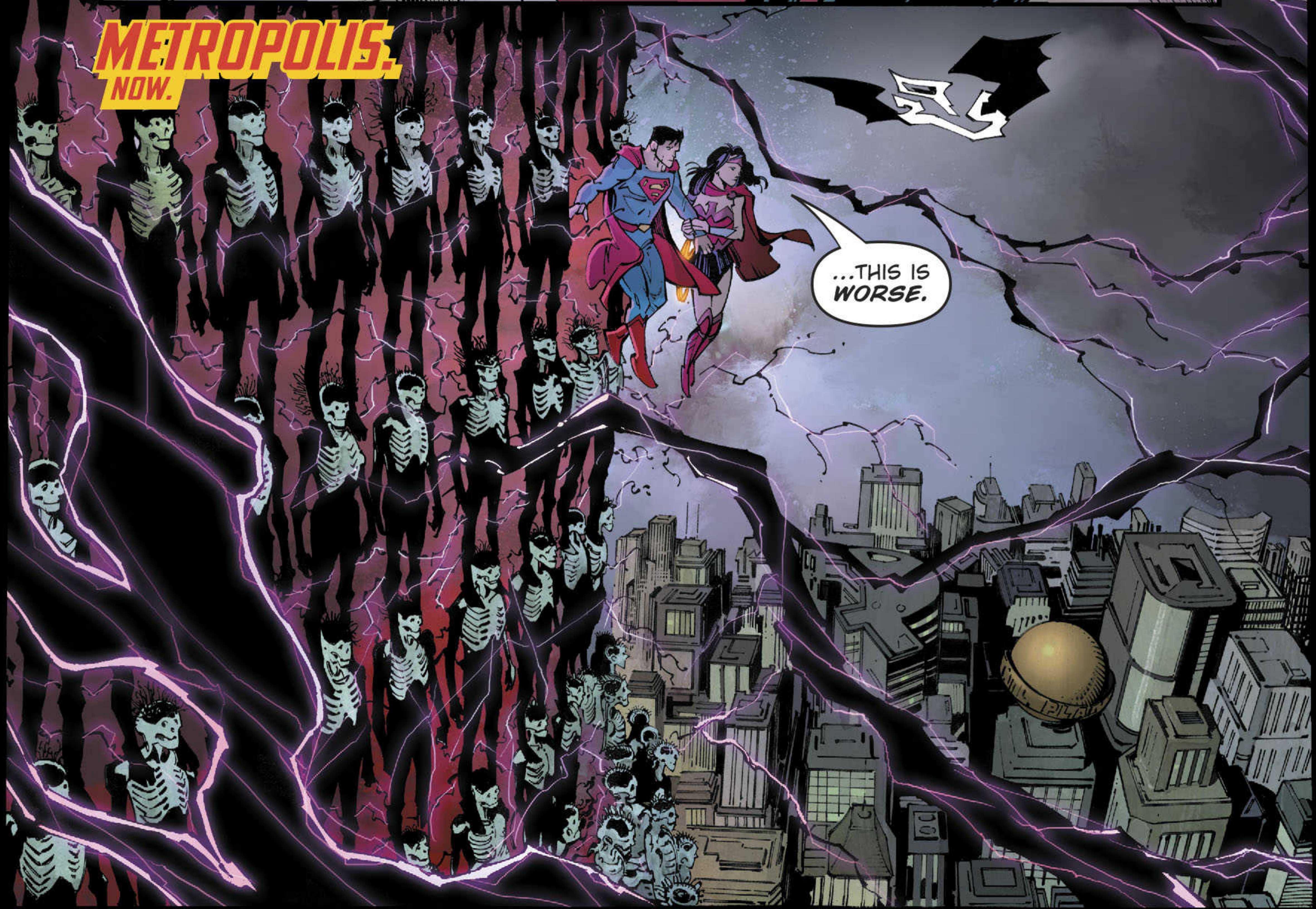
"...WITH GODS.



I LOST  
EVERY TIME.



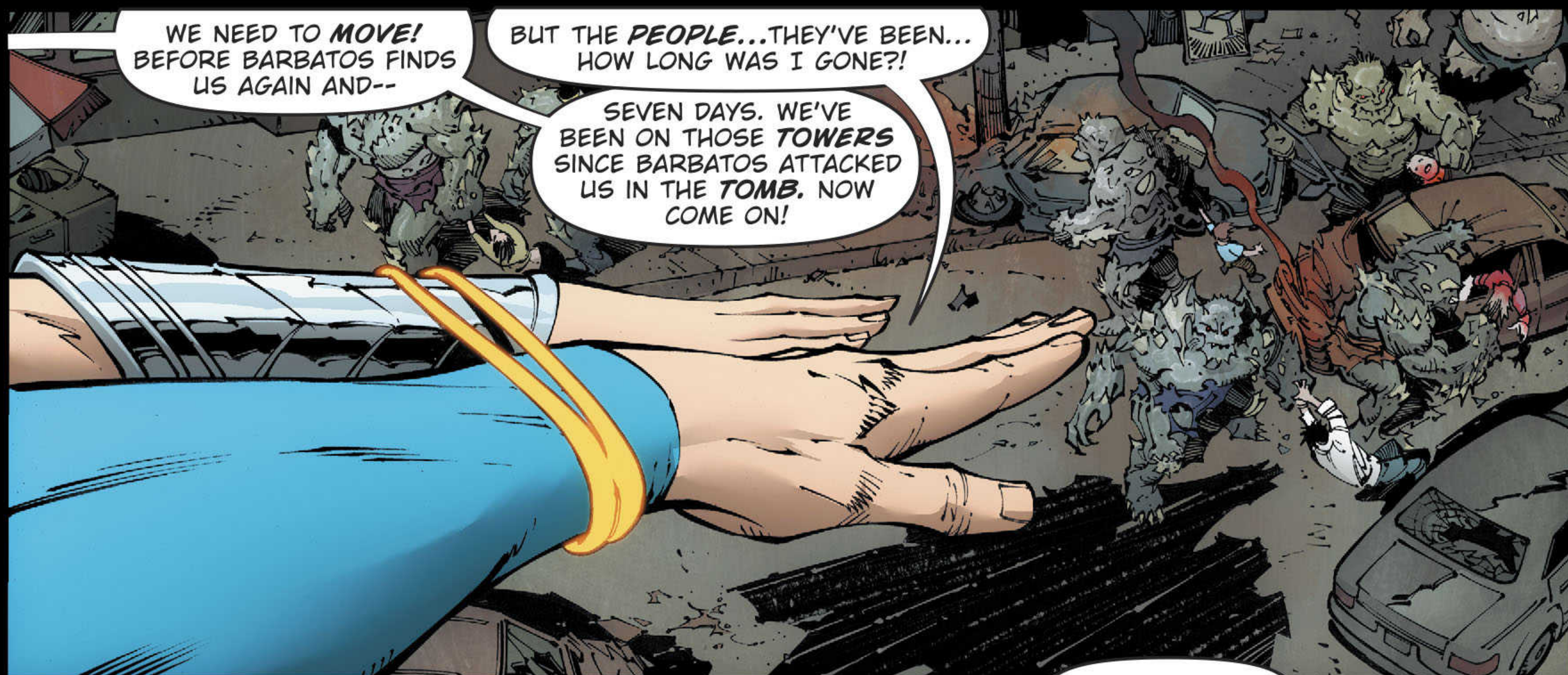
IT WAS THE  
SAME FOR ME.  
BUT HEAR ME NOW.  
WHATEVER YOU  
FACED...



**METROPOLIS.**  
**NOW.**

...THIS IS  
WORSE.





WE NEED TO **MOVE!**  
BEFORE BARBATOS FINDS  
US AGAIN AND--

BUT THE **PEOPLE...** THEY'VE BEEN...  
HOW LONG WAS I GONE?!

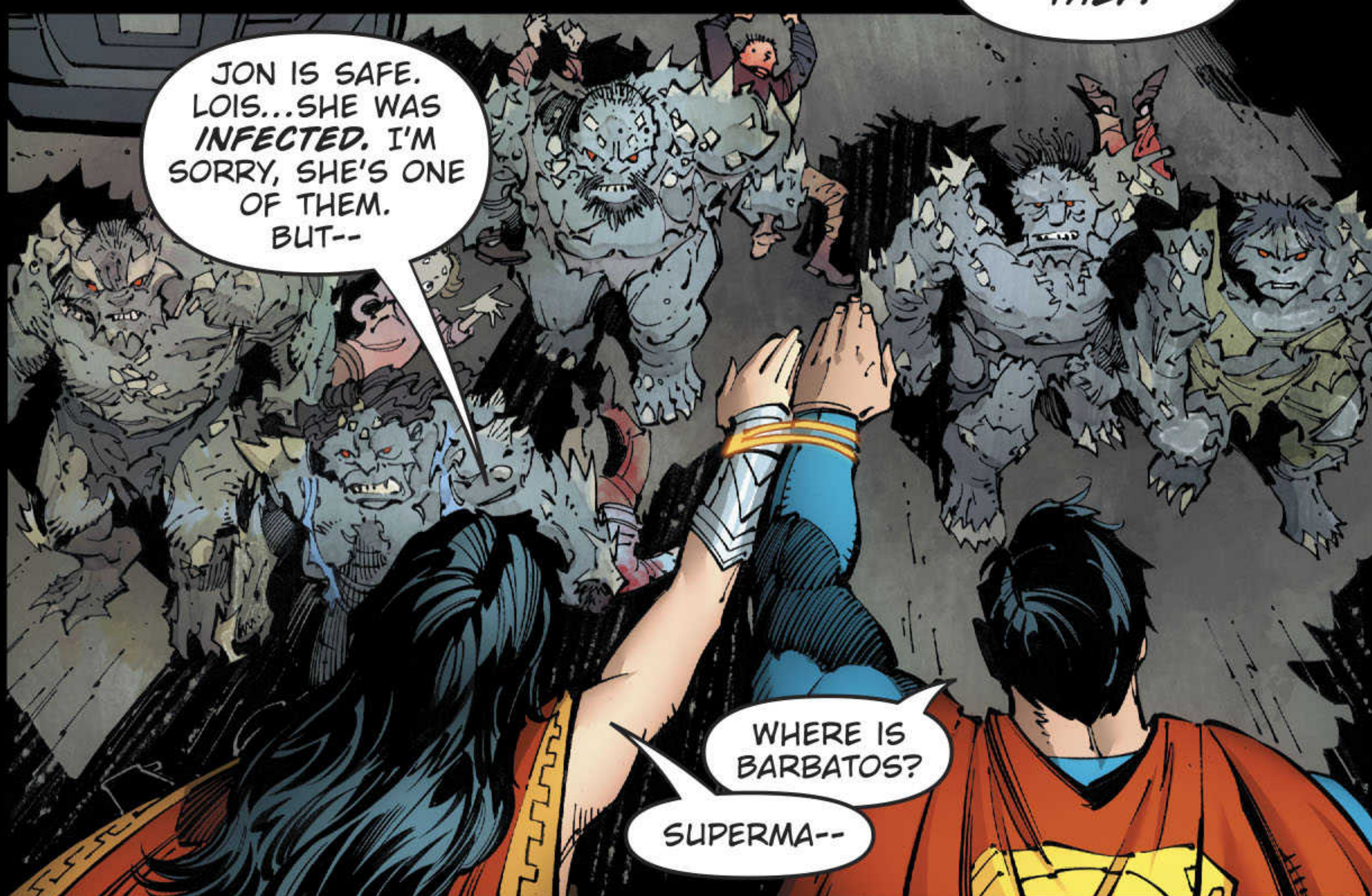
SEVEN DAYS. WE'VE  
BEEN ON THOSE **TOWERS**  
SINCE BARBATOS ATTACKED  
US IN THE **TOMB**. NOW  
COME ON!



WAIT! JIMMY?!  
I HAVE TO HELP  
HIM, DIANA!

YOU'RE  
**TOO WEAK,**  
DAMMIT! I'M  
TOO WEAK,  
TOO!

SEVEN DAYS...  
JON AND LOIS,  
WHERE ARE  
THEY?



JON IS SAFE.  
LOIS...SHE WAS  
**INFECTED.** I'M  
SORRY, SHE'S ONE  
OF THEM.  
BUT--

WHERE IS  
BARBATOS?

SUPERMA--



WHERE IS  
BARBATOS?!

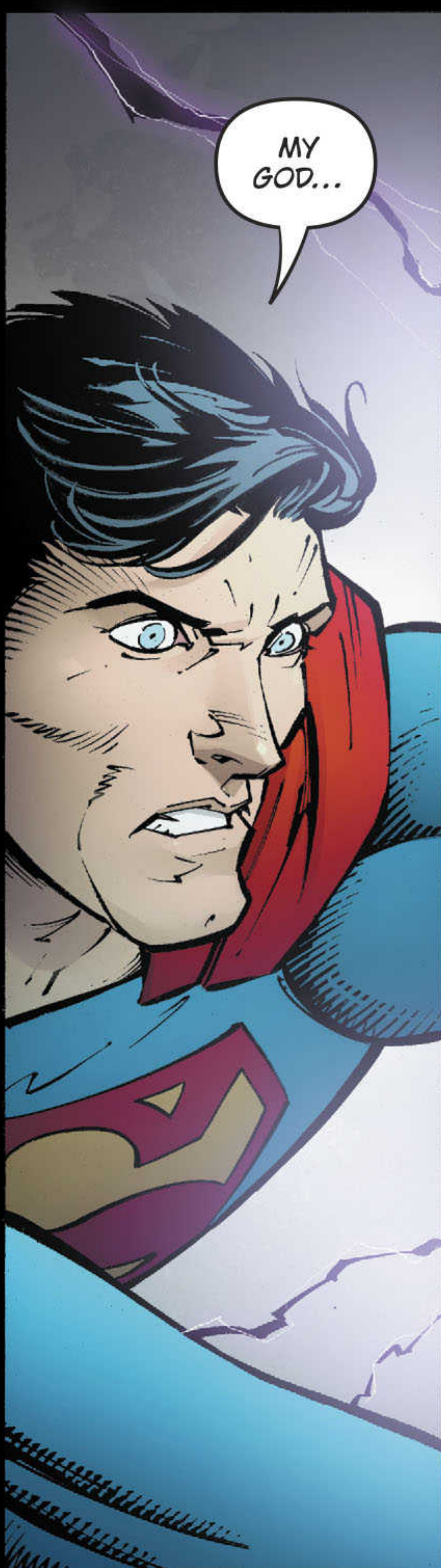
...

GOTHAM  
CITY...BUT  
YOU **DON'T**  
UNDER-  
STAND--



KRA-KOON

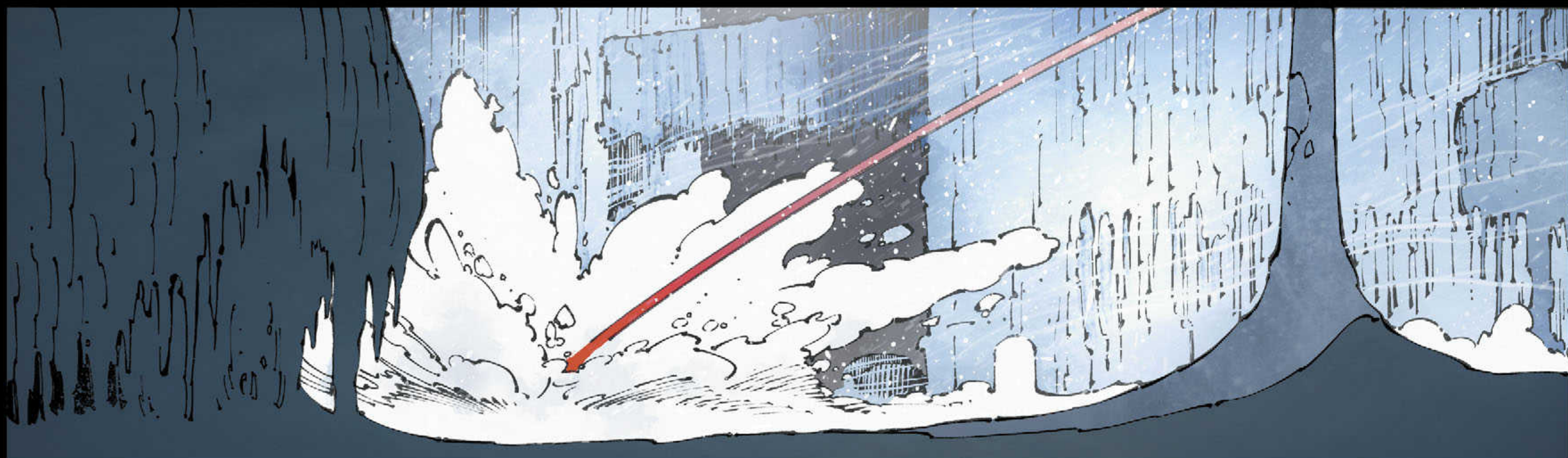
















...FOR ALL OF US.

ALL RIGHT THEN. IF YOU'RE ALL BRUCE...

...THAT MEANS THERE HAS TO BE SOME GOOD IN YOU...

...SOMEWHERE.

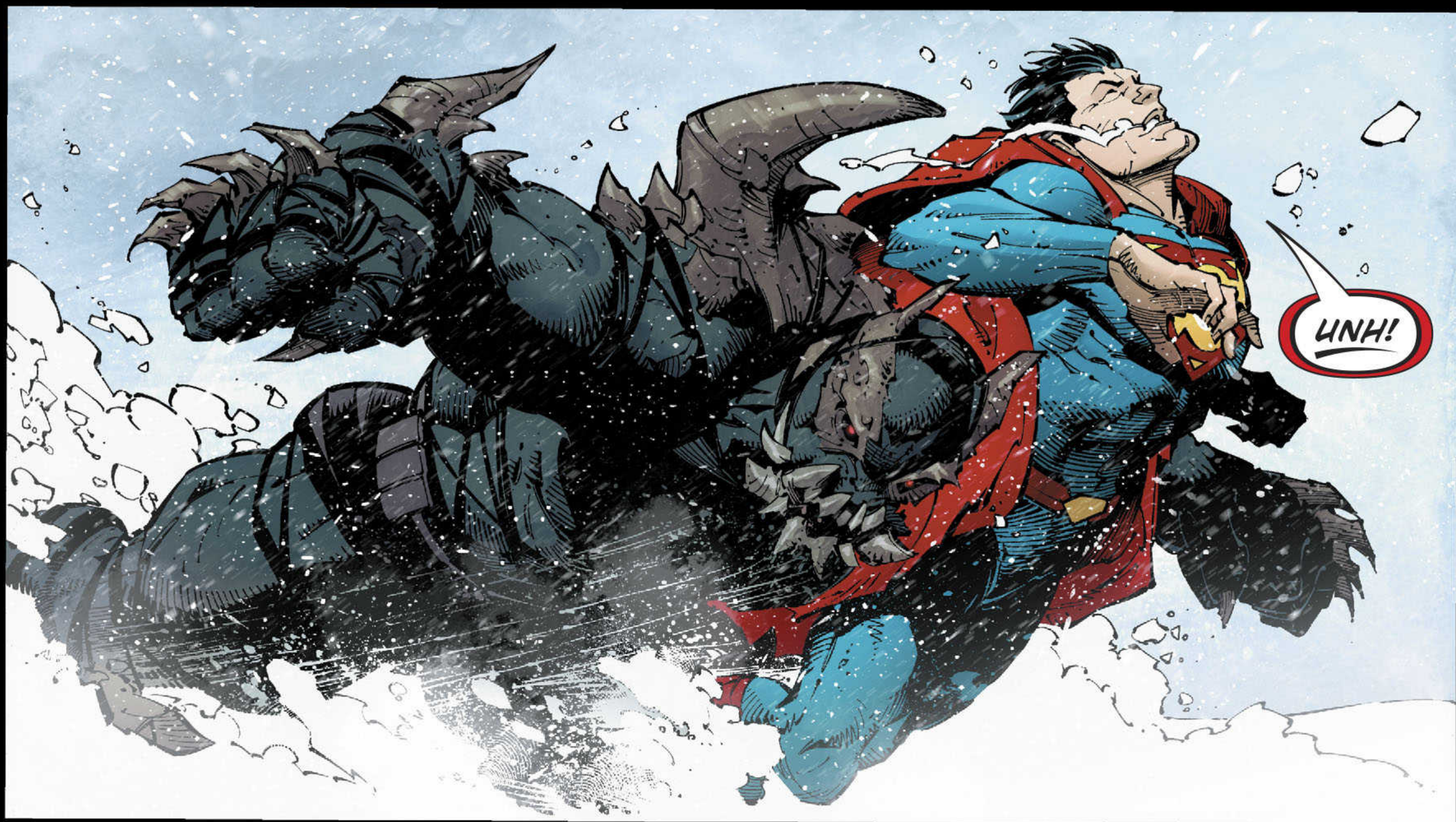


HEEEEE...

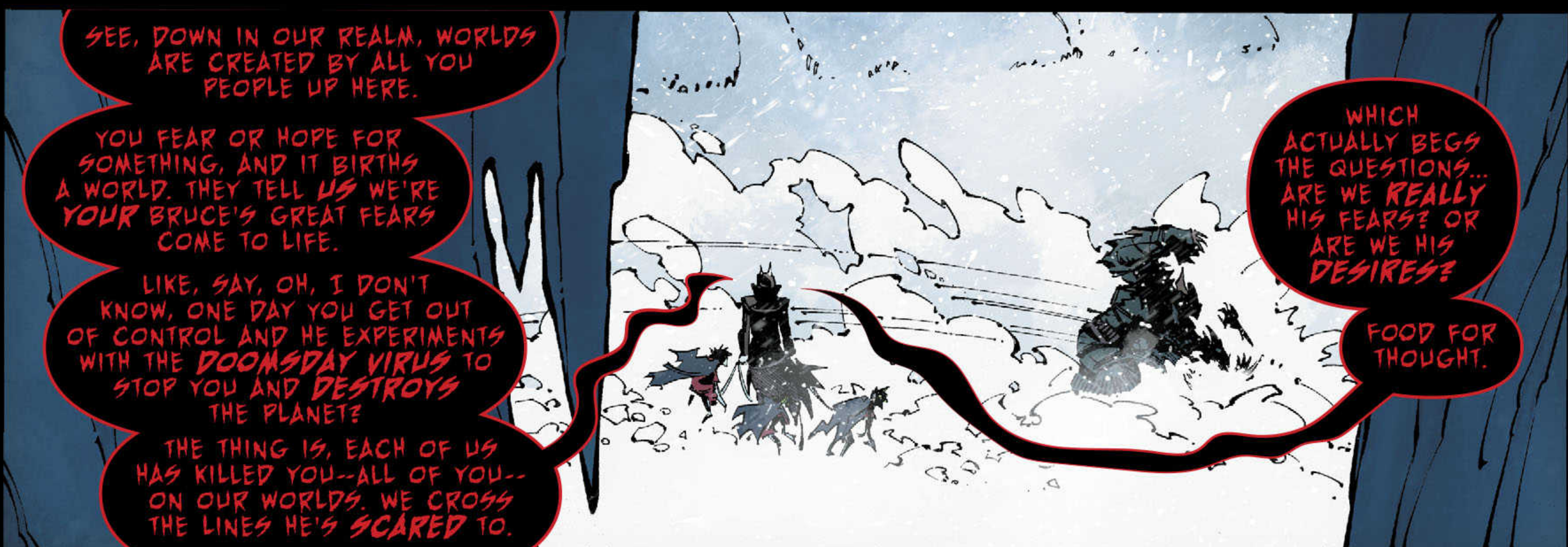
CLARK. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU SAID TO ME ON MY WORLD...

...RIGHT BEFORE I KILLED YOU AND YOUR WHOLE FAMILY.

DEVASTATOR?



UNH!



SEE, DOWN IN OUR REALM, WORLDS ARE CREATED BY ALL YOU PEOPLE UP HERE.

YOU FEAR OR HOPE FOR SOMETHING, AND IT BIRTHS A WORLD. THEY TELL US WE'RE YOUR BRUCE'S GREAT FEARS COME TO LIFE.

LIKE, SAY, OH, I DON'T KNOW, ONE DAY YOU GET OUT OF CONTROL AND HE EXPERIMENTS WITH THE DOOMSDAY VIRUS TO STOP YOU AND DESTROYS THE PLANET?

THE THING IS, EACH OF US HAS KILLED YOU--ALL OF YOU--ON OUR WORLDS. WE CROSS THE LINES HE'S SCARED TO.

WHICH ACTUALLY BEGS THE QUESTIONS... ARE WE REALLY HIS FEARS? OR ARE WE HIS DESIRES?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.





YOU'RE MONSTERS, NOTHING MORE!

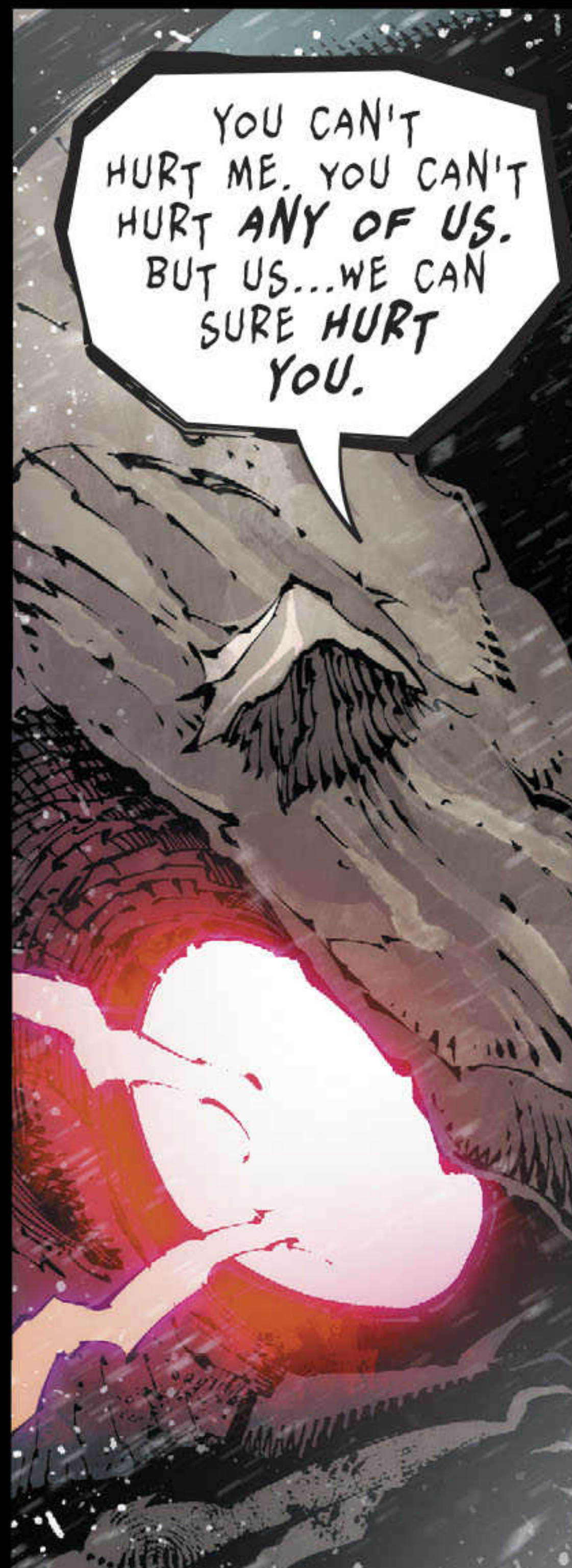
GO AHEAD, KENT.



YOU CAN FEEL IT, RIGHT? WE'RE NOT MADE FROM THE SAME STUFF AS YOU.



YOUR RULES DON'T APPLY. EVERY PUNCH YOU THROW, IT JUST MAKES YOU WEAKER.



YOU CAN'T HURT ME. YOU CAN'T HURT ANY OF US. BUT US...WE CAN SURE HURT YOU.



SMASH

NOW, FOR THE GOOD TIMES, I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE...

...EYES OPEN OR CLOSED?



HANG ON, SUPERMAN!

WHOOOSH

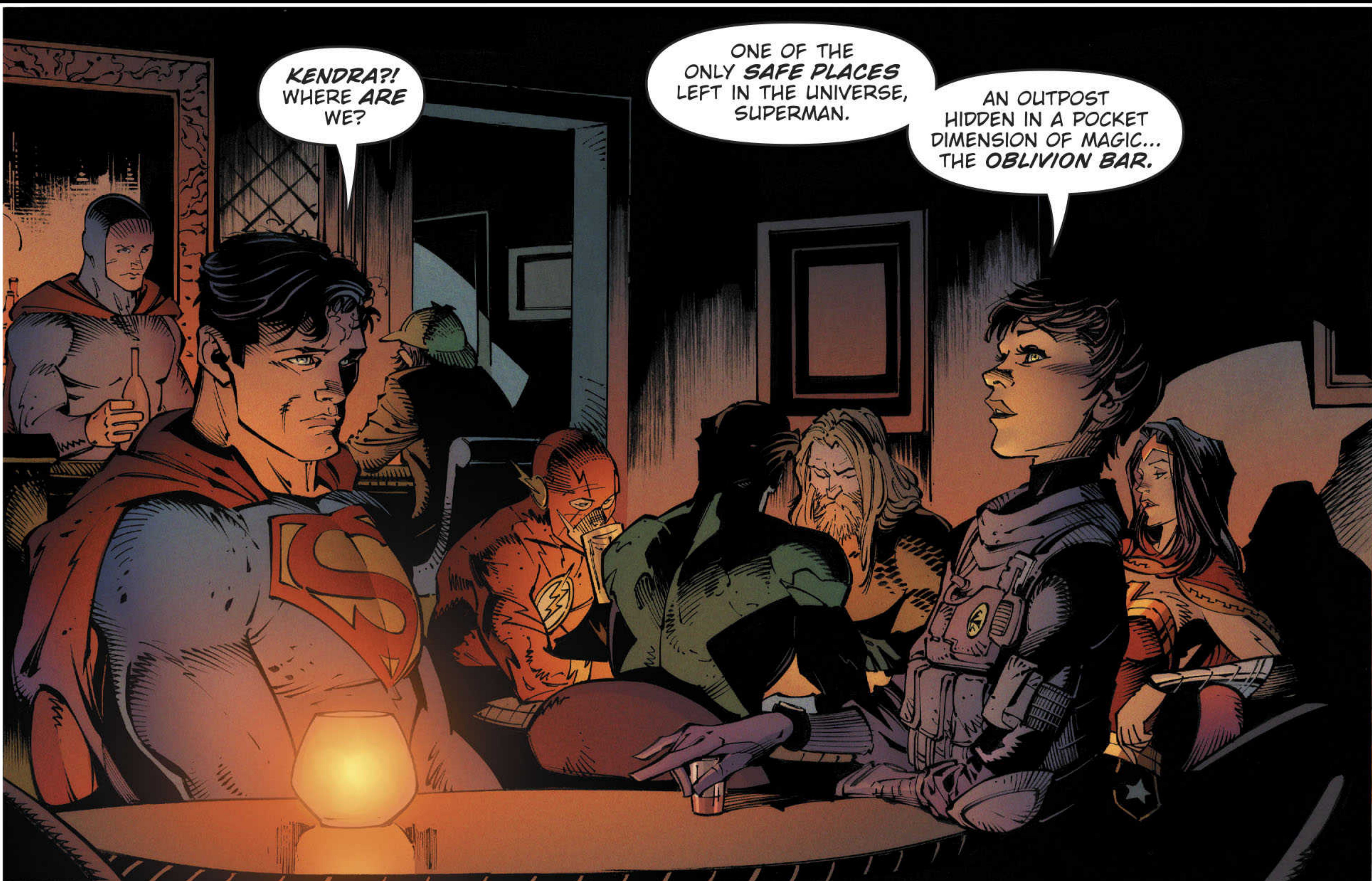


FLASH?! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING...





...ME? WHAT THE--



KENDRA?!  
WHERE ARE WE?

ONE OF THE ONLY **SAFE PLACES** LEFT IN THE UNIVERSE, SUPERMAN.

AN OUTPOST HIDDEN IN A POCKET DIMENSION OF MAGIC... THE **OBLIVION BAR**.



WELCOME. I'M **NIGHTMASTER**, THE PROPRIETOR.

AND I'M HIS UNCLE BOBO.\* HERE'S TO THE END OF THE WORLD, BOSS.

\*BOBO'S NOT HIS UNCLE.  
-EDDIE & TAY



DOCTOR FATE, STEEL AND MR. TERRIFIC USED THEIR CONNECTIONS TO **NTH METAL** TO CREATE A PORTAL HERE AND GATHERED US, AFTER WE BATTLED THOSE...**ABOMINATIONS**.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, AQUAMAN. I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE **DAYS**...BUT YOU LOOK BEATEN, ALL OF YOU. AND OUTSIDE, HOW THE **HELL** DID THIS HAPPEN?!

IT'S **SIMPLE**, SUPERMAN...



...WE LOST.

NIGHTWING?  
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE  
BEEN--

THROUGH HELL? NO  
KIDDING. WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING  
WITHOUT SLEEP NONSTOP, DAY  
IN AND DAY OUT.

A TEAM OF US  
TRIED TO WIN BACK GOTHAM,  
**JUST GOTHAM...**BUT BARBATOS  
AND THE DARK KNIGHTS...THEY'RE  
**TOO POWERFUL.\***



\*FOR MORE ON JON SNOW  
NIGHTWING READ **GOTHAM  
RESISTANCE**. WINTER  
CAME. -EDDIE & TAY

MORE CITIES WILL PROBABLY  
FALL BY TONIGHT. EVERY PLACE  
THE DARK KNIGHTS CONQUER,  
THEY CREATE THOSE **TOWERS**  
OF PEOPLE...LIVING **CONDUCTORS**  
OF DARK ENERGY.

OF COURSE...  
THEY'RE CREATING  
A **CIRCUIT**...THEY'RE  
GOING TO TRY TO SINK  
THE WORLD INTO THE  
DARK! WE NEED TO  
**FIGHT THEM!**

**FLASH** TRIED  
IN CENTRAL CITY.  
**GREEN LANTERN** IN  
COAST CITY. **CYBORG**  
WENT DOWN ON THE  
WATCHTOWER. WE  
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM  
HIM IN DAYS.

AND I...  
I LOST  
THE **TEEN  
TITANS...**

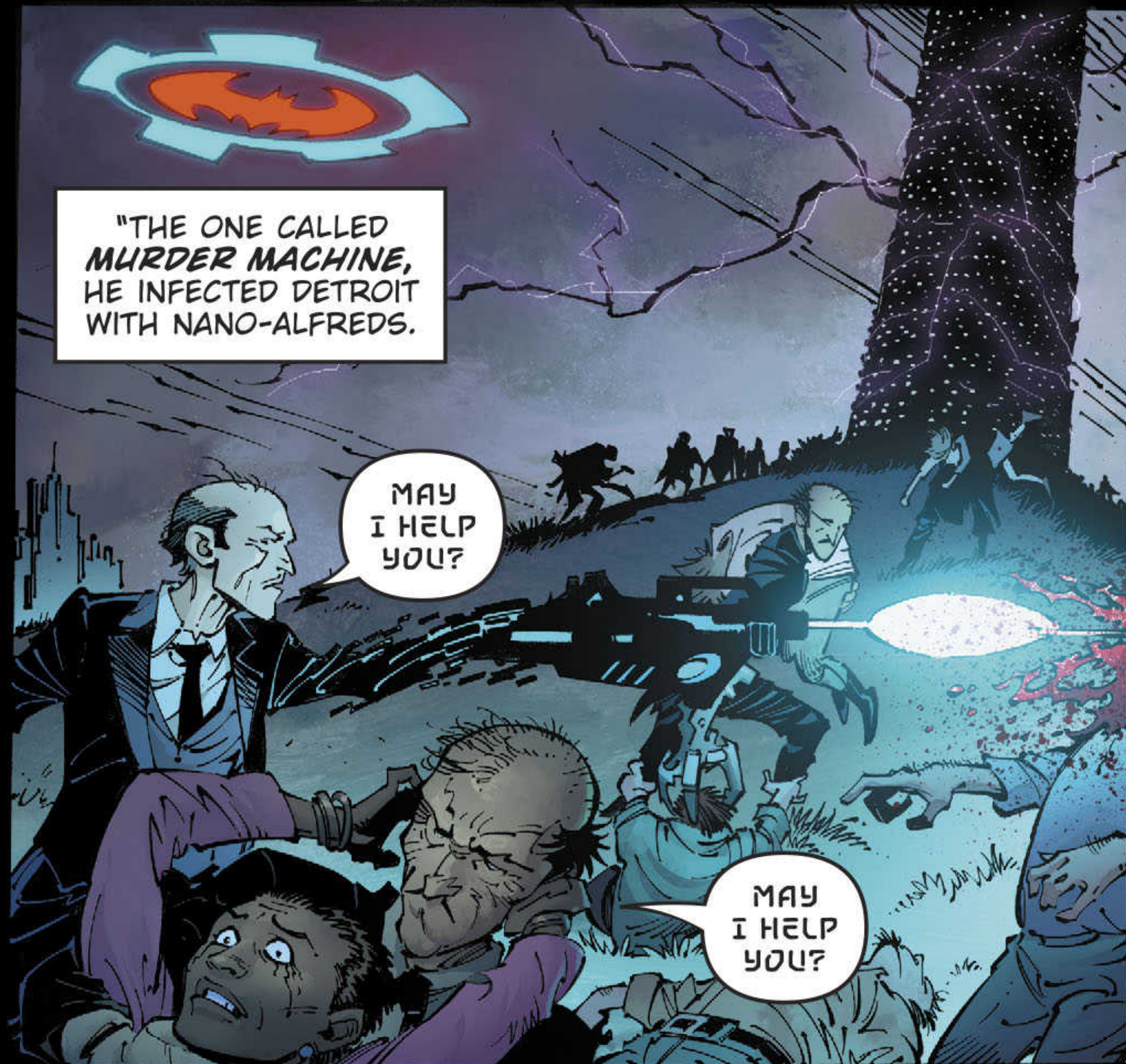
...KIDS,  
CLARK.  
KIDS.



"THE ONE CALLED  
**MURDER MACHINE**,  
HE INFECTED DETROIT  
WITH NANO-ALFREDS.

MAY  
I HELP  
YOU?

MAY  
I HELP  
YOU?



"THE ONE CALLED **RED DEATH**  
CREATED A **SPEED FORCE STORM**  
IN CENTRAL CITY THAT KILLS ANYONE  
WHO TOUCHES IT IN SECONDS.





HEY, BOY SCOUT. YOU NEED TO ACCEPT THIS **A LOT FASTER**. BECAUSE EVERY MOMENT, THOSE TOWERS ARE GROWING. AND IF THEY SOMEHOW **ACTIVATE...**?

NOT TO MENTION WE LIKELY ONLY HAVE **MINUTES** BEFORE THE DARK KNIGHTS FIND US. THAT WAS THE COST OF GETTING YOU. A COST I WAS **AGAINST**.

SAY WHAT YOU WILL, BUT I'VE BEEN IN ENOUGH **WARS** TO KNOW WE NEED **EVERY** GOOD WARRIOR.

WONDER WOMAN, I WAS FIGHTING WARS BACK WHEN YOU WERE STILL A PILE OF **DIRT**.



NOW IF YOU'D LISTENED TO ME BACK AT BLACKHAWK ISLAND AND **GIVEN** ME BATMAN INSTEAD OF PROTECTING HIM, MAYBE WE'D HAVE A CHANCE.

BUT THESE THINGS ARE KILLING MACHINES AND NOW THERE'S **NOTHING** THAT WILL STOP **BARBATOS** OR THEM FROM--



THIS STOPS THEM.

**NTH METAL**. IT HURTS THEM. WE SAW IT IN GOTHAM.

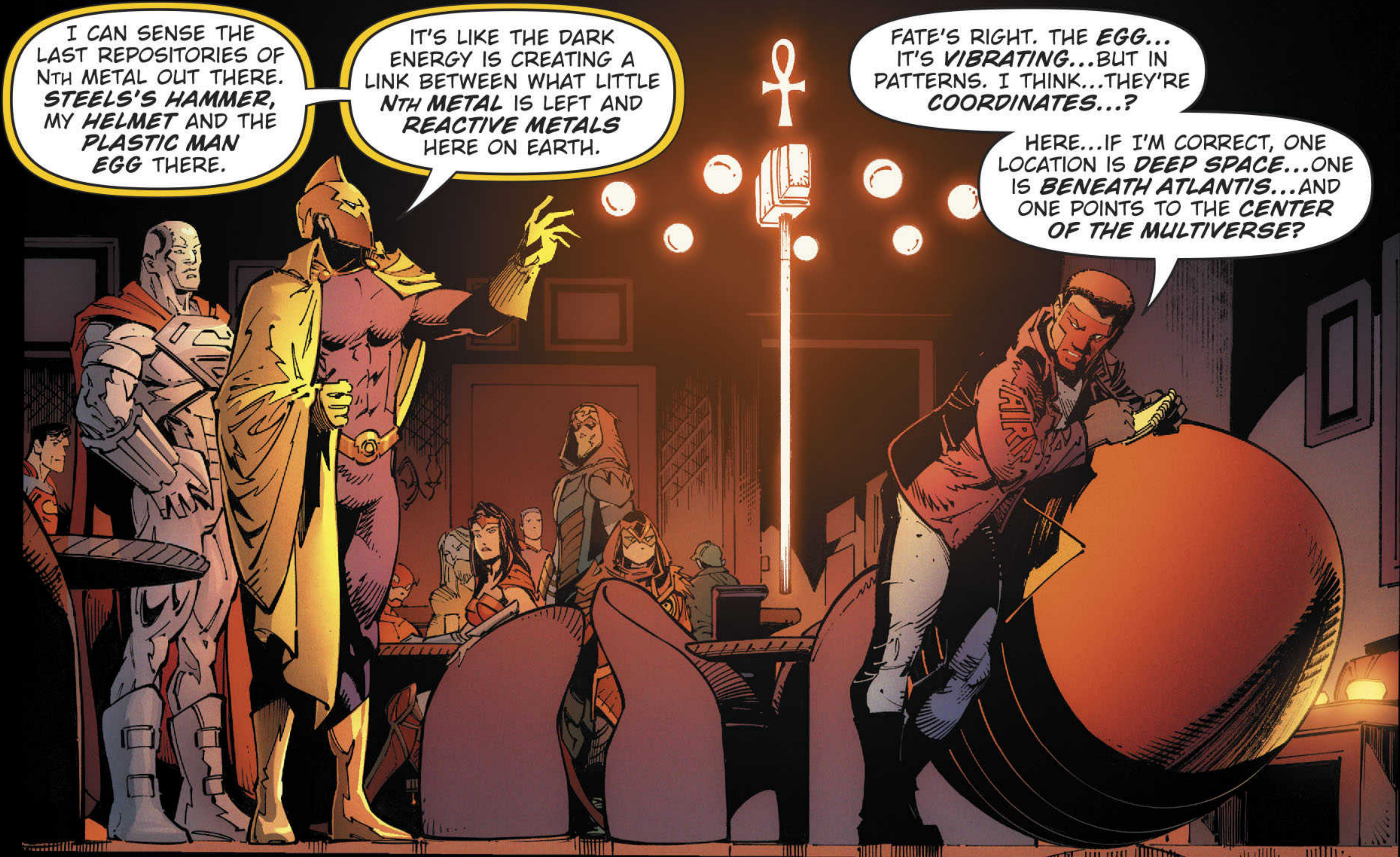
**GREEN ARROW** IS RIGHT.

**TTT** SHAME YOU AND YOUR BIRD GOONS **DESTROYED** ALL OF THE STUFF, SAUNDERS.

NOT ALL OF IT, ROBIN.





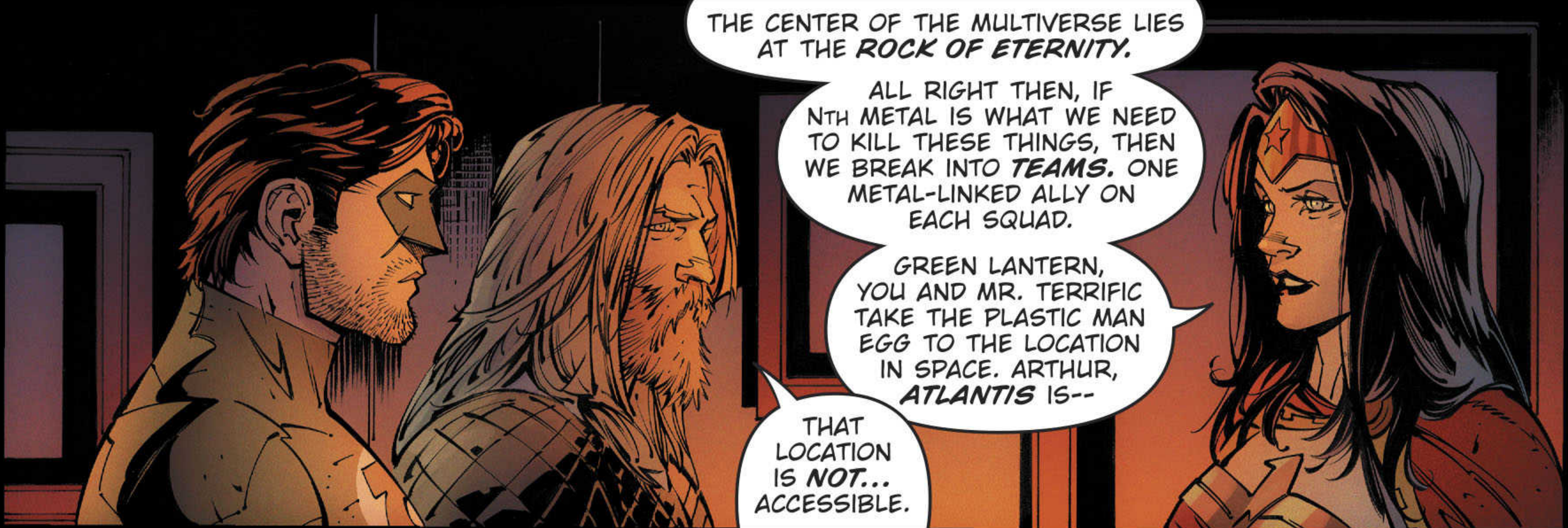


I CAN SENSE THE LAST REPOSITORIES OF NTH METAL OUT THERE. **STEELS'S HAMMER**, MY **HELMET** AND THE **PLASTIC MAN EGG** THERE.

IT'S LIKE THE DARK ENERGY IS CREATING A LINK BETWEEN WHAT LITTLE **NTH METAL** IS LEFT AND **REACTIVE METALS** HERE ON EARTH.

FATE'S RIGHT. THE **EGG**... IT'S **VIBRATING**...BUT IN PATTERNS. I THINK...THEY'RE **COORDINATES**...?

HERE...IF I'M CORRECT, ONE LOCATION IS **DEEP SPACE**...ONE IS **BENEATH ATLANTIS**...AND ONE POINTS TO THE **CENTER OF THE MULTIVERSE**?



THE CENTER OF THE MULTIVERSE LIES AT THE **ROCK OF ETERNITY**.

ALL RIGHT THEN, IF NTH METAL IS WHAT WE NEED TO KILL THESE THINGS, THEN WE BREAK INTO **TEAMS**. ONE METAL-LINKED ALLY ON EACH SQUAD.

GREEN LANTERN, YOU AND MR. TERRIFIC TAKE THE PLASTIC MAN EGG TO THE LOCATION IN SPACE. ARTHUR, **ATLANTIS** IS--

THAT LOCATION IS **NOT**... ACCESSIBLE.



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NOT ACCESSIBLE?! THIS IS **WORLD-ENDING** STUFF. GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE **WATER**!

I JUST WATCHED MY FAMILY GET **SWALLOWED BY SHADOWS**!

AND ONE OF THOSE **THINGS** TOOK **MERA**. YOU STILL KNOW **NOTHING** OF THE SECRETS OF--

WAIT! THERE'S **ONE MORE** SET OF COORDINATES...



THEY'RE COMING THROUGH **MORE STRONGLY** THAN THE REST...THE LOCATION IS...BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

WHERE IS IT?

IT'S... **NOWHERE**. THE COORDINATES ARE **NEGATIVE**. THEY POINT TO...



...DARKNESS.



THE DARK MULTIVERSE. I KNEW IT. IT'S **BATMAN**. HE'S THE KEY. WE NEED TO GO GET HIM!

LISTEN, I FOUGHT BARBATOS IN LIFE AFTER LIFE, AND IN THE LAST FEW... BATMAN...I COULD **FEEL** HIM **CALLING OUT** TO ME THROUGH THE DARK. THE FINAL TIME, IN SMALLVILLE, HE SAID SOMETHING THAT **DIDN'T TRACK**.

WAIT. YOU WANT TO GO INTO THE DARK MULTIVERSE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING BATMAN SAID IN A **DREAM**?! OPEN YOUR EYES! BARBATOS GIVES YOU HOPE JUST TO CRUSH YOU HARDER.

IT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO CARTER! IT'S **ALL A TRAP**! I PROMISE YOU. WITH BARBATOS, **ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO--**

DON'T EVEN.

WHEN WE STARTED OUT, WONDER WOMAN, BATMAN AND I HAD A **CODE** FOR THE DIREST SITUATIONS. A PRIVATE S.O.S.

THE CODE WAS AN ALPHABETICAL **TRINITY**. HE SAID "CARPE DIEM," DIANA. THAT COULD MEAN--

I KNOW WHAT IT **COULD** MEAN. BUT WE HAVE REAL ASSETS TO GO AFTER HERE. THE DARK MULTIVERSE IS A TOTAL **UNKNOWN** AND--

I FELT IT, TOO.

I FELT HIM REACHING OUT. TRYING TO SAY **SOMETHING**.

AND WHAT DO YOU SAY, NIGHTWING? YOU KNOW HIM AS WELL AS ANYONE.

I SAY...

I SAY WE FIGHT **HERE**.

**CRACK**

**YOU BASTARD!**

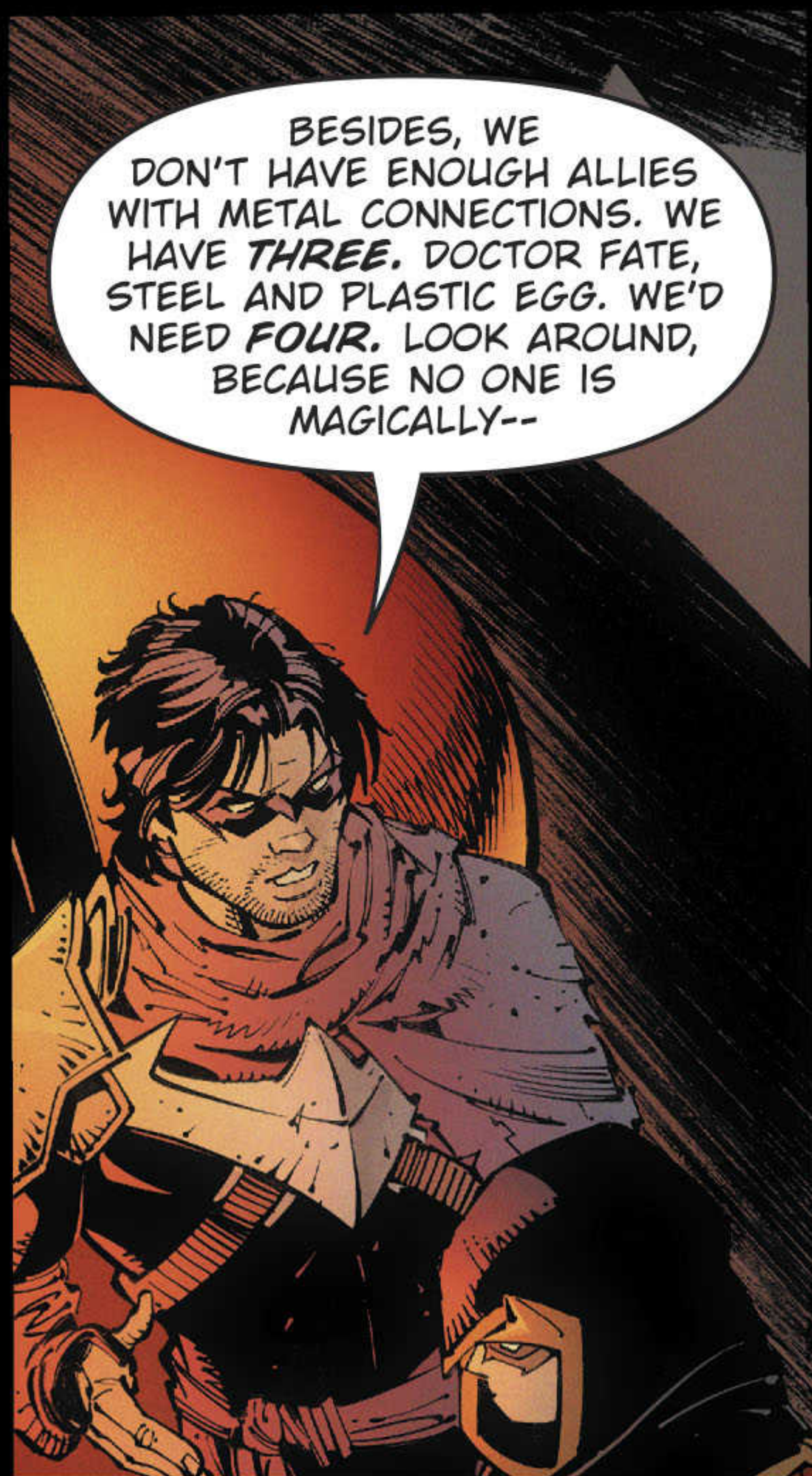
I'M SORRY, ROBIN! I LOVE HIM, JUST LIKE I LOVE YOU. BUT I...

...I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS A BALANCE TO HIS DARKNESS...NOW **SEEING** HIS DEMONS IN THE FLESH, WHAT THEY **DID** TO US ON THEIR WORLDS... AND THE ONE WHO **LAUGHS**...

THEY'RE **NOT HIM**! THEY'RE HIS WORST FEARS! AND HE'S **TRAPPED** OUT THERE WITH THEM! SUPERMAN'S RIGHT! WE NEED TO GO GET MY FATHER!

**NO!** WE DON'T. WE SAVE HIM BY DOING WHAT HE'D WANT US TO DO--FIGHT HERE AND NOW!







PLEASE. I'M TELLING YOU, BATMAN CALLED TO ME. AND THE METALS THEY TREATED HIM WITH, HE COULD EVEN BE THE KEY TO THEIR PLAN. THE **POWER SOURCE** BARBATOS IS WAITING TO ACTIVATE WHEN THOSE TOWERS GET BIG ENOUGH.

LOOK, BARBATOS IS TRYING TO DRAG US INTO THE DARK. AND IT'S **WINNING**, DAMMIT. BUT IF ITS ESSENCE IS DARKNESS, THE FASTEST WAY TO BRING US DOWN IS TO STOP US FROM **HOPING...**

...FROM **VENTURING** INTO THE UNKNOWN, SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT. OUR FRIEND MIGHT BE THAT LIGHT, AND HE NEEDS US.

NOW, I HAVE A WAY TO GET TO THE DARK MULTIVERSE, BUT I'LL NEED YOUR HELP, FLASH. YOU TOO, STEEL.

IRIS...EVERYONE I CARE ABOUT NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW, BUT I...I'LL HELP YOU FIRST.

ANY OBJECTIONS?

THEN GODSPEED. LET'S DO THIS.

THANK YOU, CLARK.

I'LL FIND HIM, KIDDO.

**RRRRRRRRRRUUUUUMMMMMBBBLLLLLEEEEEEE**

THEY'RE UPON US! WE MUST TRY NOW! IF WE **FOCUS**, WE CAN CREATE PORTALS ALONG THE COORDINATES' PATHS!

I'LL HOLD IT STEADY.

**DO IT NOW!**



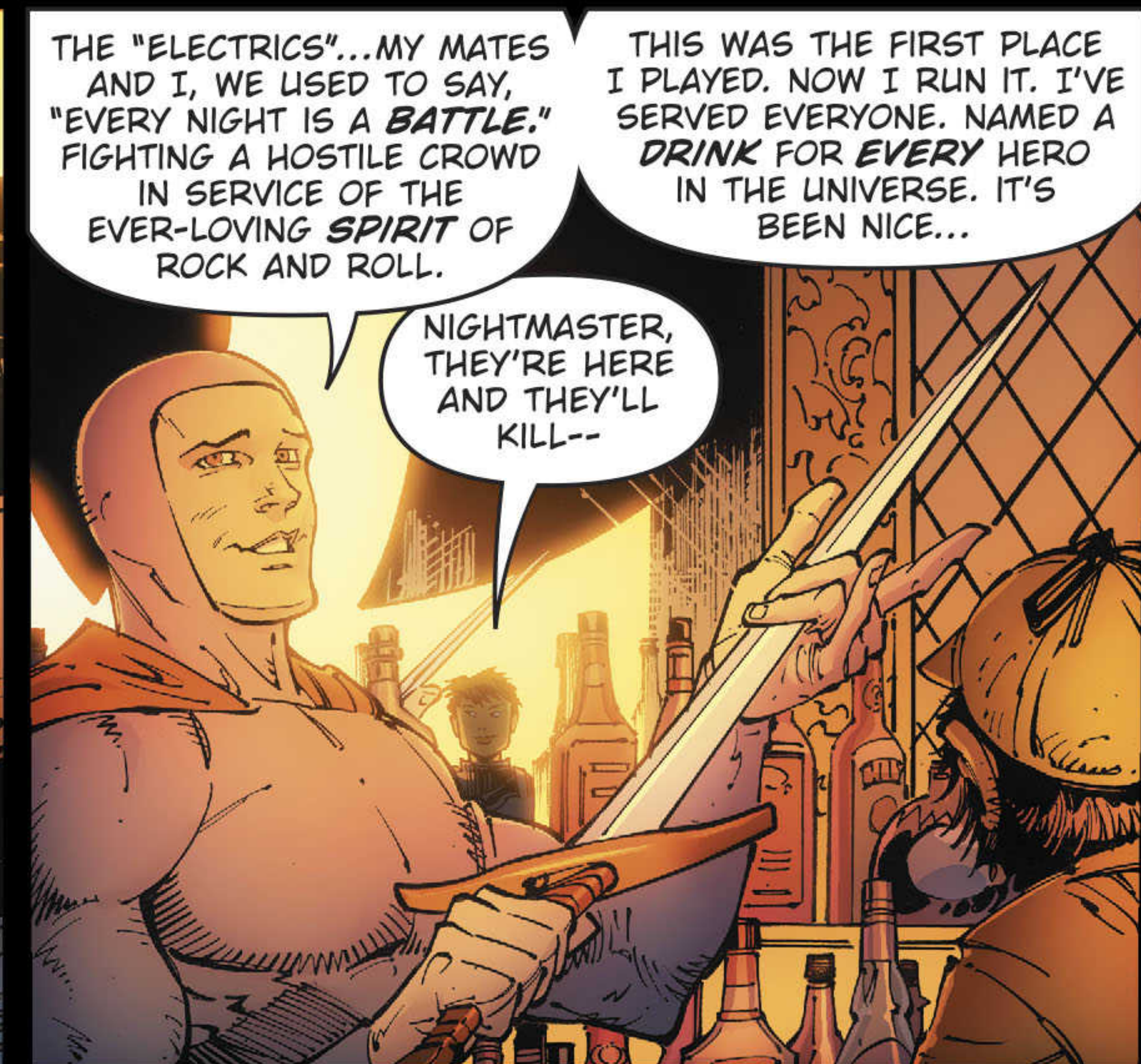




WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? **COME ON!**

CLOSING TIME, JIM. PUT IT ON MY TAB.

YOU KNOW, I WAS IN A **ROCK BAND** WHEN I WAS YOUNG...A MILLION LIVES AGO?



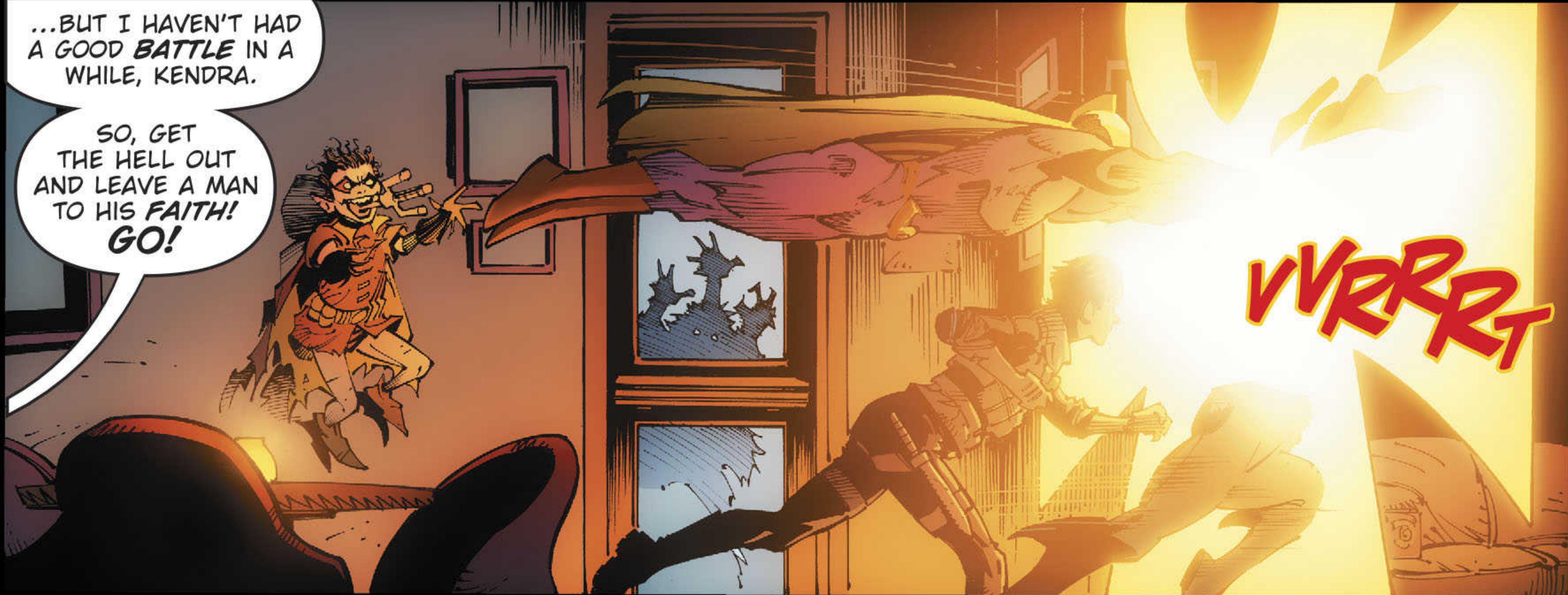
THE "ELECTRICS"...MY MATES AND I, WE USED TO SAY, "EVERY NIGHT IS A **BATTLE**." FIGHTING A HOSTILE CROWD IN SERVICE OF THE EVER-LOVING **SPIRIT** OF ROCK AND ROLL.

THIS WAS THE FIRST PLACE I PLAYED. NOW I RUN IT. I'VE SERVED EVERYONE. NAMED A **DRINK** FOR **EVERY** HERO IN THE UNIVERSE. IT'S BEEN NICE...

NIGHTMASTER, THEY'RE HERE AND THEY'LL KILL--

...BUT I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD **BATTLE** IN A WHILE, KENDRA.

SO, GET THE HELL OUT AND LEAVE A MAN TO HIS **FAITH!** **GO!**



**VRRRT**



JIM! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!

SOME HOT FLESH FOR THE KIDS AND A ROUND OF "BATMEN" ON ME! THAT'S A TALL GLASS OF "JUST ICE," RIGHT?

**KRASH**

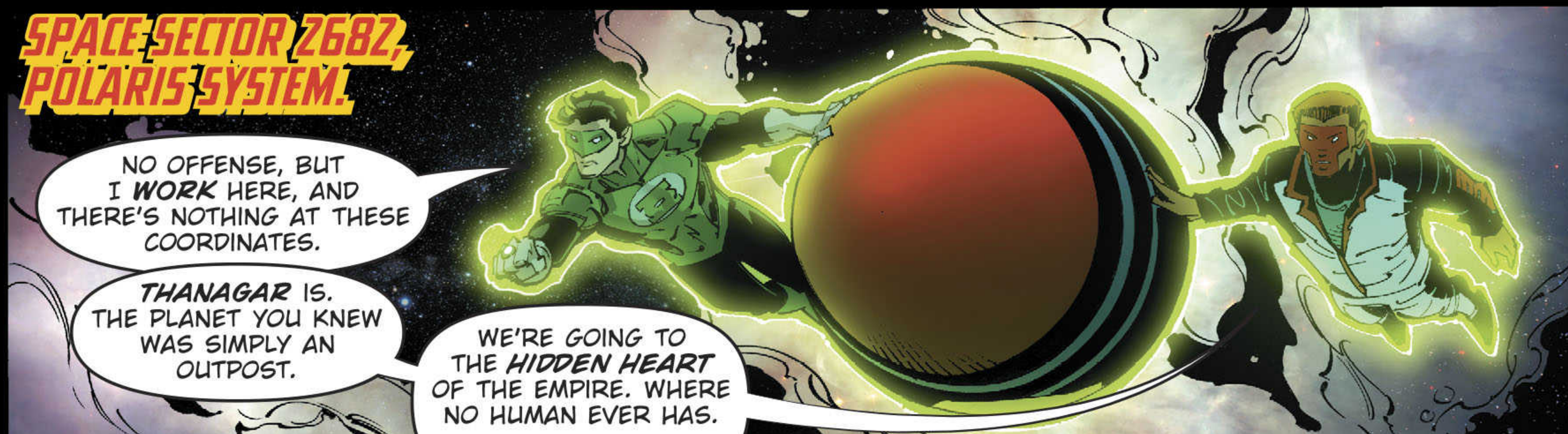


"...AW, WHERE'S EVERYONE GOING?"

## THE SANDS OF BIALYA.



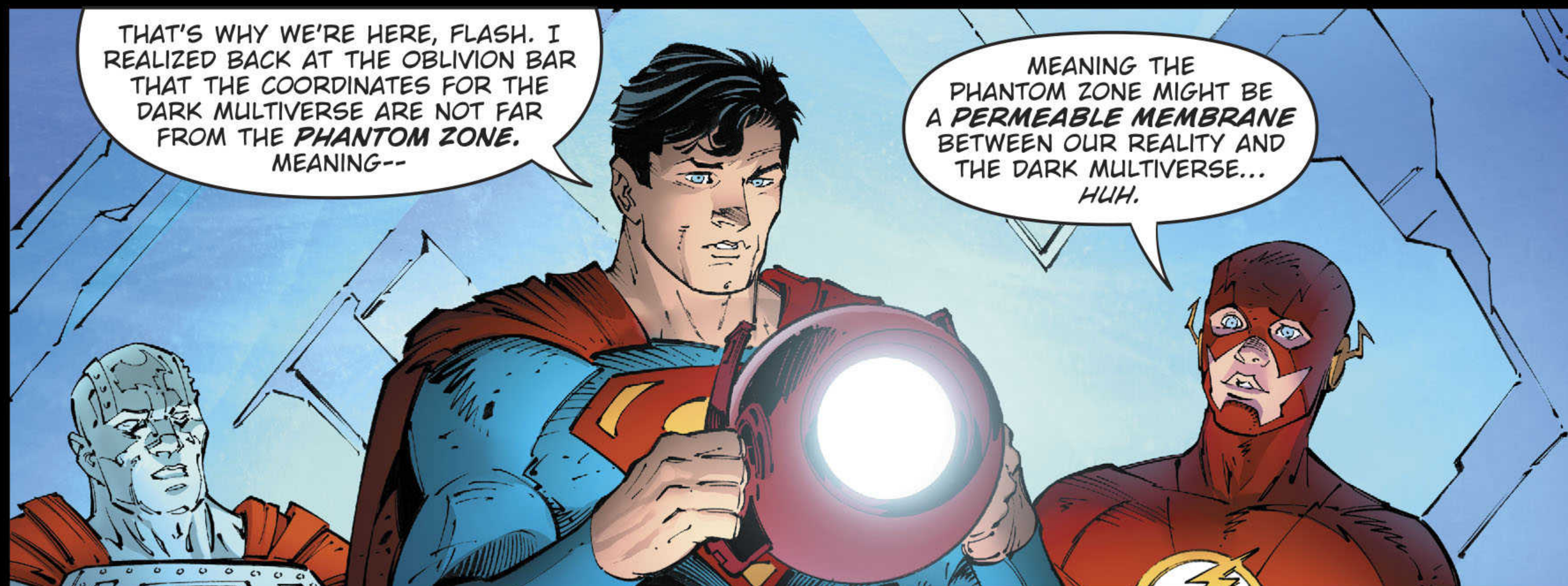
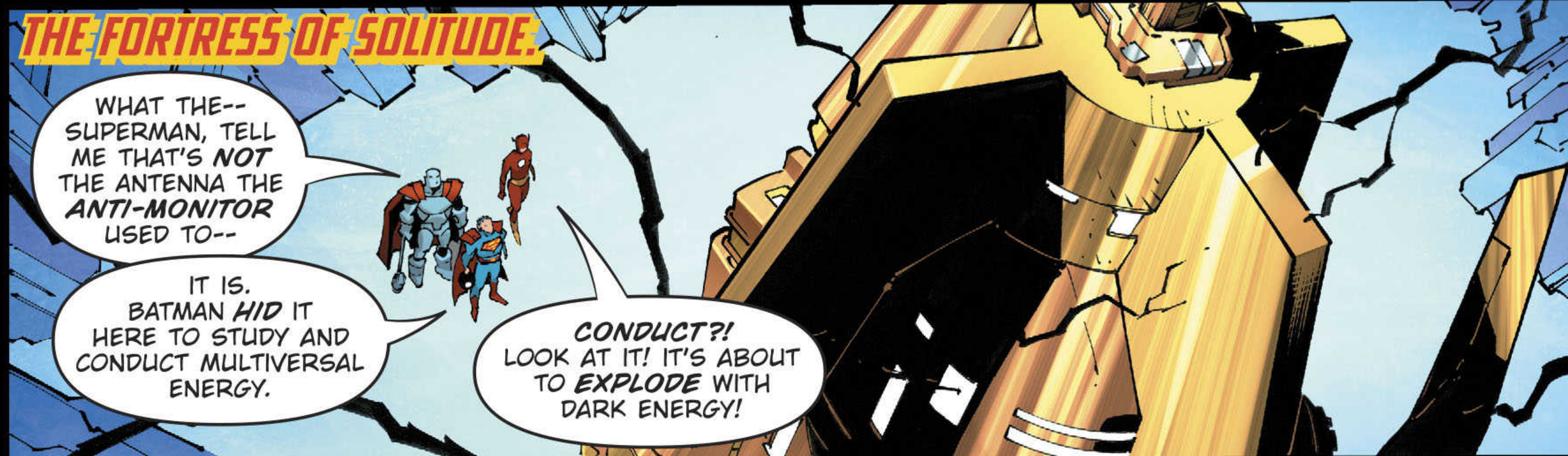
## SPACE SECTOR 2682, POLARIS SYSTEM.



## MARIANA TRENCH.



## THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.





MAYBE. IF WE OPEN A PORTAL WITH THE **PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR** WHILE WE SUPER-CHARGE THE ANTENNA WITH THE SPEED FORCE, STEEL'S CONNECTION TO NTH METAL **MIGHT** CREATE AN ENERGY LINK TO THE DARK MULTIVERSE... AND **BATMAN** HIMSELF.

YOU REALLY THINK STEEL'S COMPASS IS POINTING TO BATMAN, THAT HE'S BECOME SOME PART OF THIS **BATTERY** THEY'RE GOING TO TURN ON?

THERE'S NOTHING **DARKER** THAN MAKING A **HERO** THE LEVER FOR **EVIL**. YES, I DO.

SO WHY HAVEN'T THEY USED HIM YET?

MAYBE HE'S **FIGHTING** THEM, STEEL. BUT IF THEY ACTIVATE THE CIRCUIT, AND WE SINK, BARBATOS WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN PORTALS TO **INFINITE WORLDS OF NIGHTMARE**.

THEN WHAT THE HELL ARE WE WAITING FOR?

THE ANTENNA, JOHN. IF IT'S TOO MUCH--

I'M A MAN OF SCIENCE, CLARK, BUT I TOOK MY NAME FROM A **STEEL DRIVER**. AND NO MACHINE IS GOING TO GET THE BEST OF ME. SO ALL THAT'S LEFT TO SAY...

"...IS READY... SET...**GO!**"

FAST AS YOU CAN, BARRY!

I'M GOING! BUT I NEED TO KNOW...WHAT WAS THE CODE THAT YOU AND DIANA AND BRUCE HAD?





"IT WAS SIMPLE, BASED ON OUR NAMES. IF I WAS IN TROUBLE, I'D SEND A 'D.B.' FOR DIANA AND BRUCE."



"DIANA'S CALL WAS 'B.C.' FOR BRUCE AND CLARK. BRUCE'S WAS--"



"'C.D.' I GET IT, BUT... CARPE DIEM?"



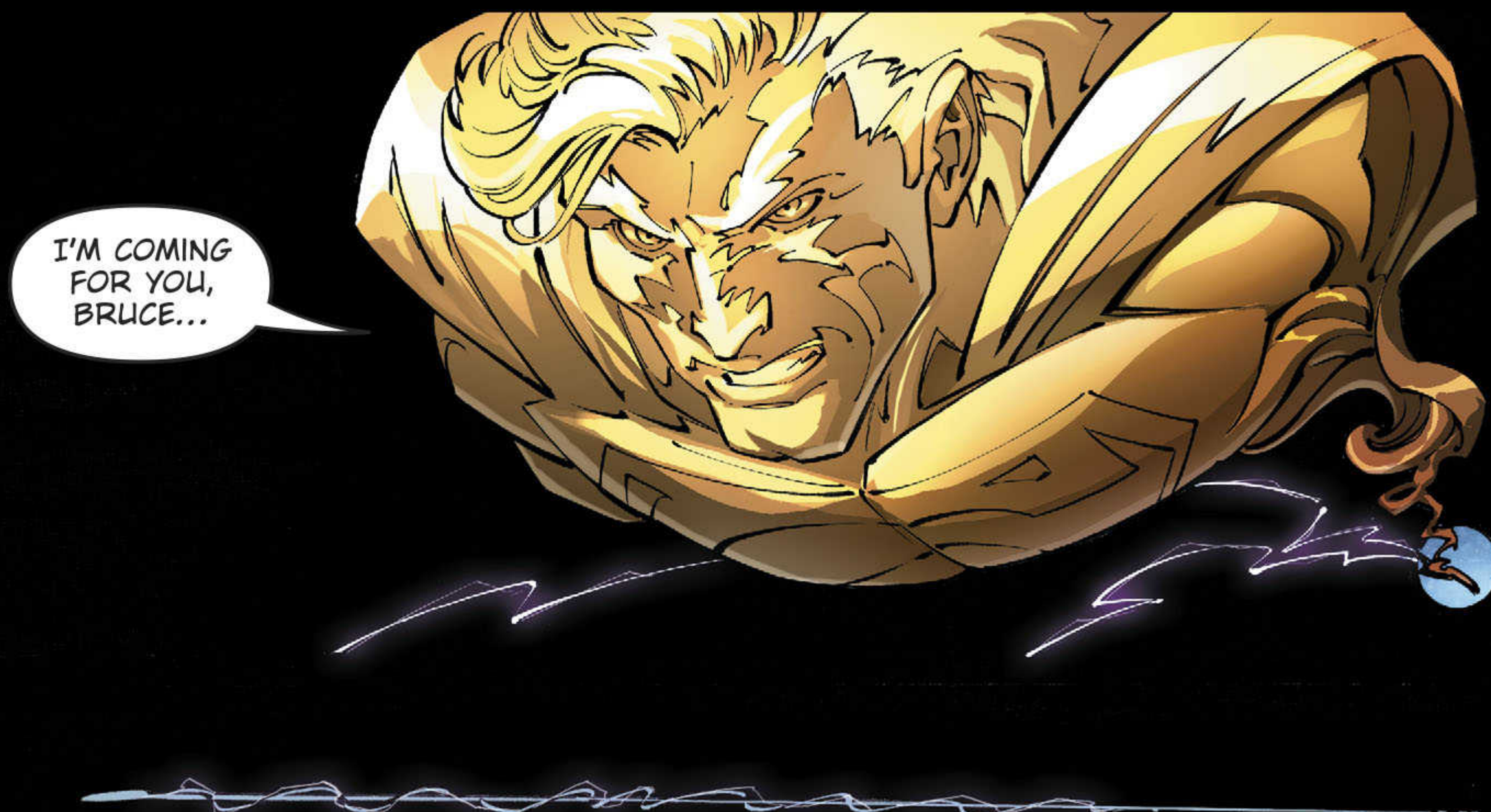
"I *FELT* IT, BARRY. HE WAS CALLING FOR HELP."

ARRG! IT'S WORKING! DO IT NOW!



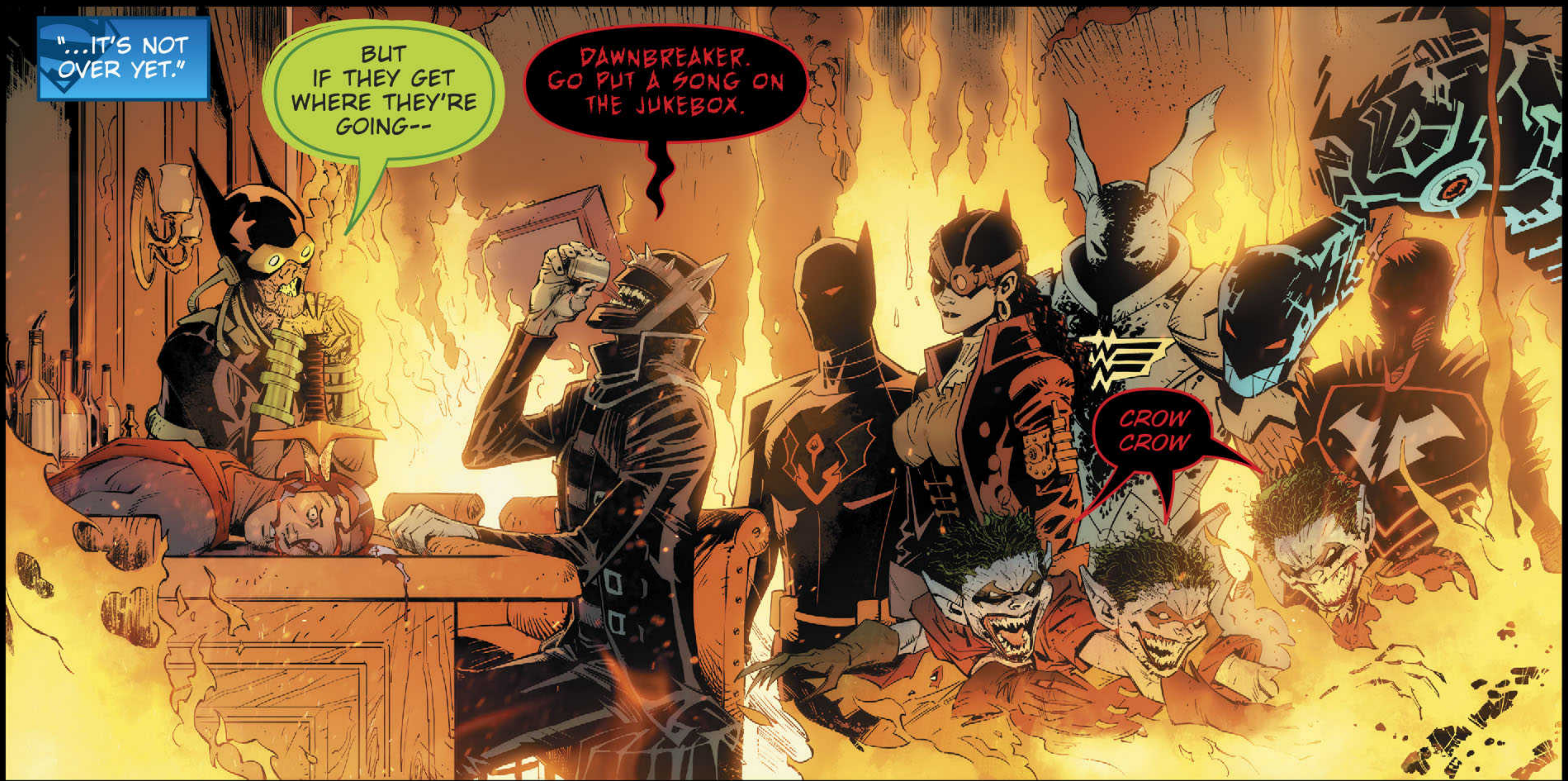
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, CLARK...NOW GO!

RAHHH!



I'M COMING FOR YOU, BRUCE...





"...IT'S NOT OVER YET."

BUT IF THEY GET WHERE THEY'RE GOING--

DAWNBREAKER. GO PUT A SONG ON THE JUKEBOX.

CROW CROW



"WHAT NUMBER, SIR?"

"B-SIXTY-SIX."



OKAY, BUT THE FLAMES...



"FIRE CAN'T STOP GOOD MUSIC, KID. GOOD MUSIC, IT TRAVELS ACROSS SPACE AND TIME, EVEN DEATH..."



IT'S WORKING! I'M ALMOST THERE! I...CAN SEE... IT'S...



...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

LIKE I SAID, GOOD MUSIC. AND THIS SONG IS OUR MASTERPIECE.



SO CLOSE! IT'S GOING TO WORK, IT WILL. IT'S NOT A...





...TRAP?

AN..."S"?  
OH GOD.  
NO.

## THE DARK MULTIVERSE



FINALLY!  
YOU'VE  
ARRIVED!

NO! STOP!  
LET ME--

YOU'RE  
HERE! WE'VE  
BEEN  
WAITING SO  
LONG!



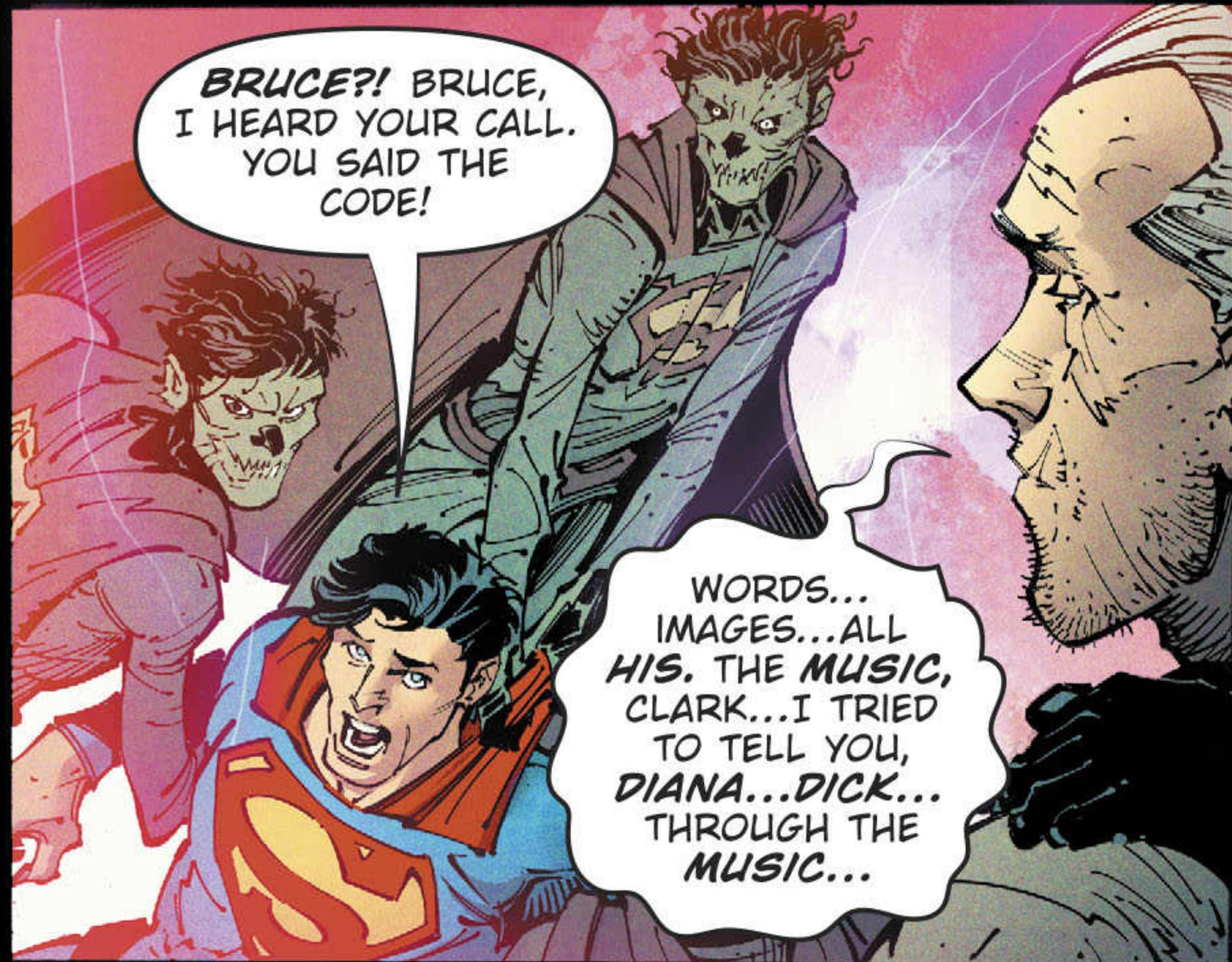
WAITING  
JUST FOR  
YOU!



THIS CAN'T BE  
HAPPENING! IT--

CLARK...  
CLARK, WHY...





"...THE ONLY WAY TO COMMUNICATE ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE. **VIBRATIONS.** THE NOTES OF THE SONG...THE SONG OUR SONS PLAYED...STARTS D...THEN C...

**NA NA NA NA NA**

"THE REVERSE OF MY CODE."

"IT WAS A WARNING, CLARK! I WAS SAYING DON'T COME HERE!"



ONE FOR THE ELECTRICS...

...AND ONE LAST DRINK FOR YOU, CLARK. A "SUPERMAN." AN IMPORT OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

DOWN YOU GO.



NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE A TRAP! IT CAN'T BE!

IT'S WHAT THEY WANTED ALL ALONG...YOUR CELLS...**YOU'RE** THE REAL BATTERY, CLARK! THE CIRCUIT IS COMPLETE!

HE WAS RIGHT, DON'T YOU SEE? IN THE END...

...ALL ROADS LEAD TO BARBATOS...



...AND NOW THE WORLD WILL SINK...

...INTO DARKNESS...

**FZZZZTTT**



**NEXT: Discover the Nightmare of the Dark Multiverse in *BATMAN: LOST!* Then in Two months: The Road to Darkness Begins in *METAL #4!***